Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

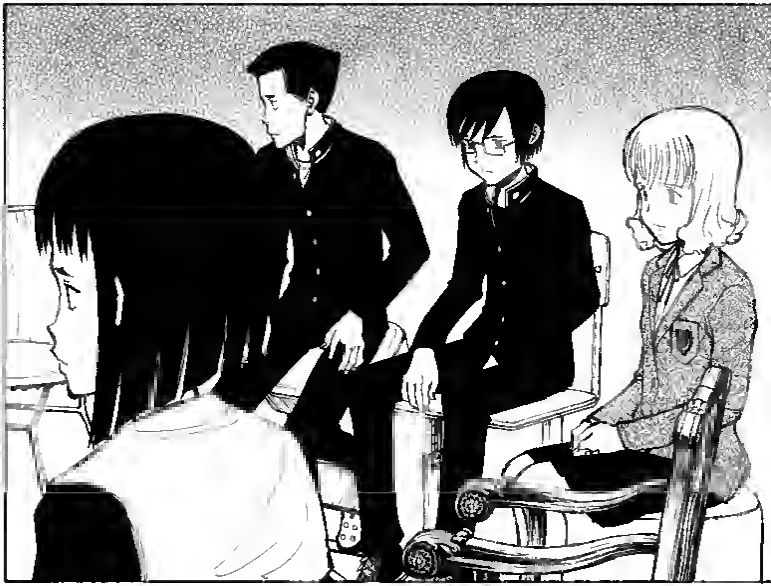
ぼくらの

CHAPTER 36
TAKAMI
KOMODA (4)

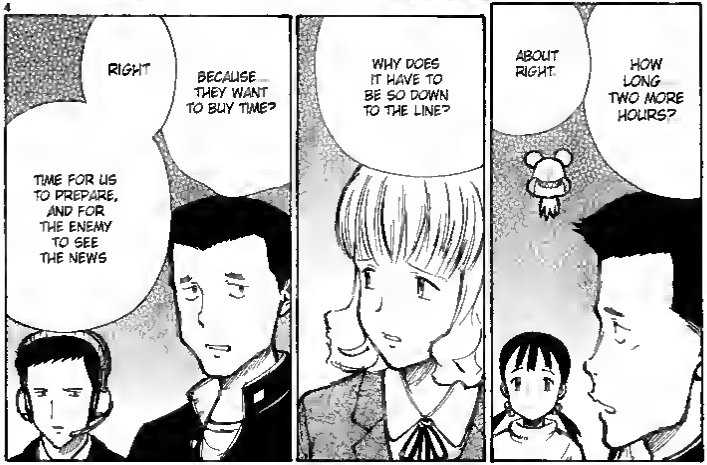
鬼頭
Kito Mohiro
莫宏

As you can see, the building is surrounded by a frenzied swarm of media and citizens
This is the municipal center where Takami Komoda's piano recital is being held
Even reporters such as myself cannot get inside
and all unrelated persons are prohibited from entering
The building itself has been roped off
but some reports say the event has been cancelled
According to the recital schedule we received the piano class students should have begun performing by now.

Back in the studio, we ll bring you up to date with the developments since yesterday morning
have not changed positions in the past two days
Zearth and the other monster codenamed "Humbug."
The current government response has been...
According to government sources several other nations have requested information on Zearth
so the only footage we can show you was what came from the military several hours ago
Our news choppers are not allowed to approach within a 30km radius of the monsters appearance point.

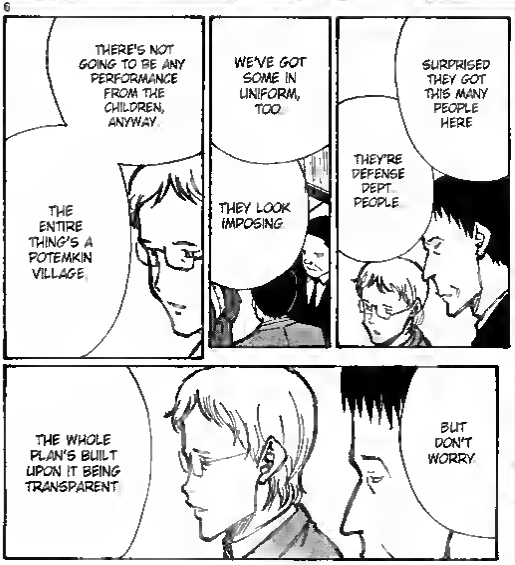


4


RIGHT
BECAUSE... THEY WANT TO BUY TIME?
TIME FOR US TO PREPARE, AND FOR THE ENEMY TO SEE THE NEWS
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE SO DOWN TO THE LINE?
ABOUT RIGHT.
HOW LONG... TWO MORE HOURS?

SOME PEOPLE ARE EVEN SAYING THERE'S A CULT THAT WORSHIPS KOMODA
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE COURTS AND PROTESTS NOW
THEY ARE
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE REALLY GETTING WILD
OF COURSE, THEY'VE PROBABLY HAD THE RECITAL THERE FOR A REASON
WE WORKED HARD TO ENSURE KOMODA HERSELF WOULD TAKE THE FALL, NOT ALL OF YOU
WE DON'T KNOW WHO MIGHT BE WATCHING.
NO,
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE DIDN'T.
WE CAN'T GO SEE KOMO?

6

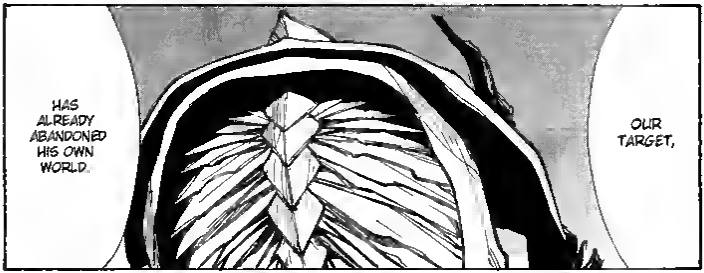

THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY PERFORMANCE FROM THE CHILDREN, ANYWAY.
THE ENTIRE THING'S A POTEMKIN VILLAGE.
WE'VE GOT SOME IN UNIFORM, TOO.
THEY LOOK IMPOSING.
SURPRISED THEY GOT THIS MANY PEOPLE HERE.
THEY'RE DEFENSE DEPT. PEOPLE.

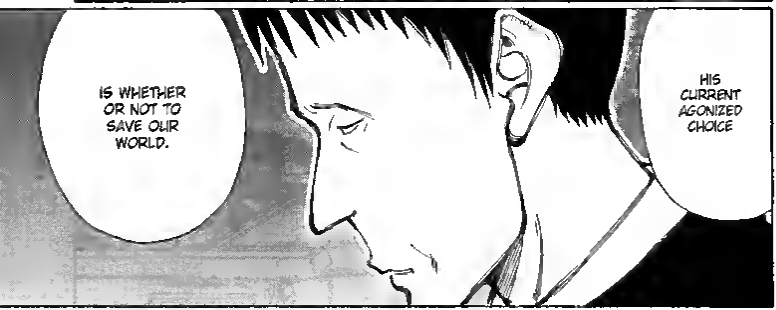
1st Squad in place.
5th Squad in place.

THE WHOLE PLAN'S BUILT UPON IT BEING TRANSPARENT.
BUT DON'T WORRY.

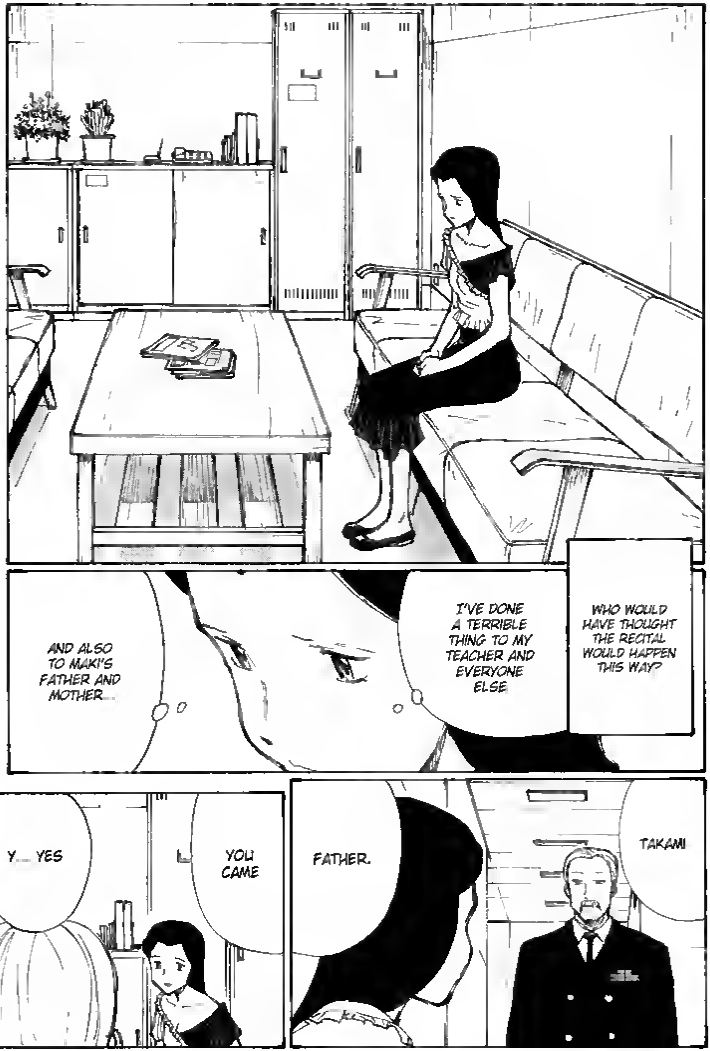
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THE SECURITY OUTSIDE MIGHT BE A LITTLE EXTREME?
POLICE LINES AND CHECKPOINTS MEAN NOTHING TO OUR TARGET.
THOSE ARE FOR THE CITIZENS

IF OUR TARGET FEELS LIKE IT, HE CAN GET ANYWHERE
THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER OR NOT HE GETS IN THE MOOD.

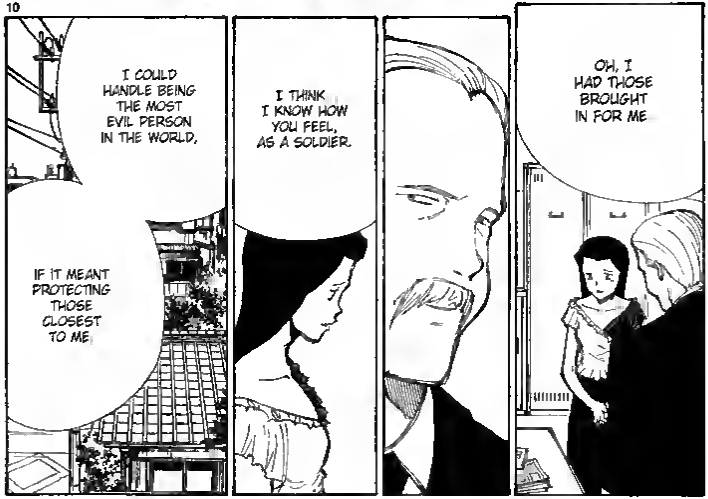

OUR TARGET,
HAS ALREADY ABANDONED HIS OWN WORLD.

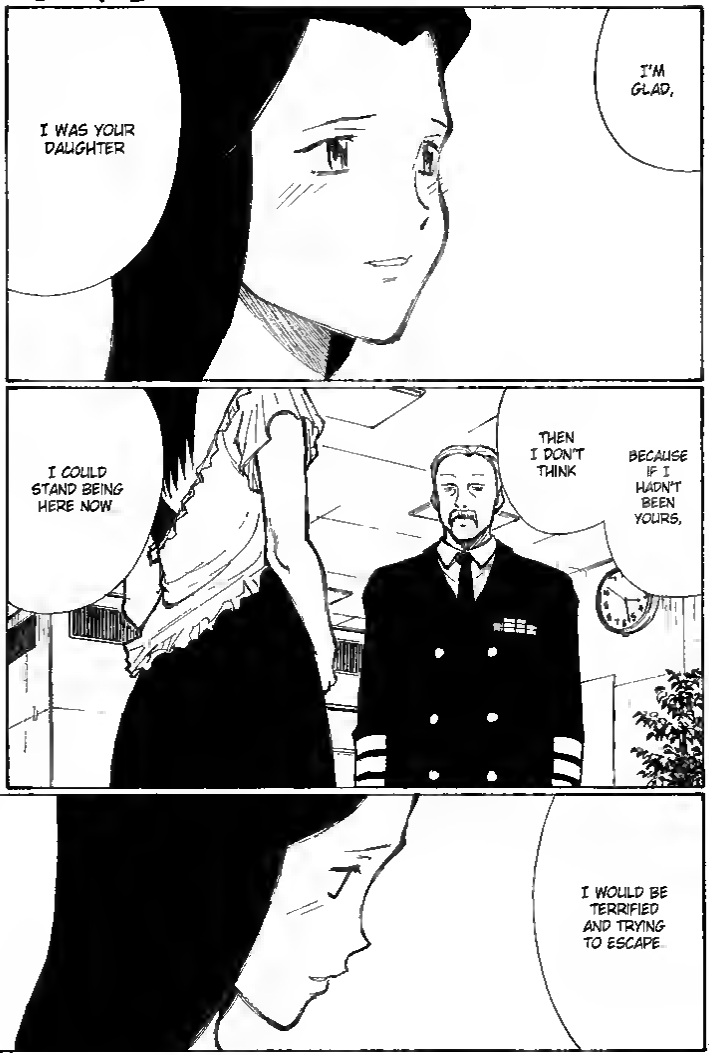

HIS CURRENT AGONIZED CHOICE
IS WHETHER OR NOT TO SAVE OUR WORLD.

IN HIS ULTIMATE DECISION
AND EXACTLY WHAT WILL BE A FACTOR
IT'S A GOOD QUESTION
DO YOU THINK HE'LL COME?

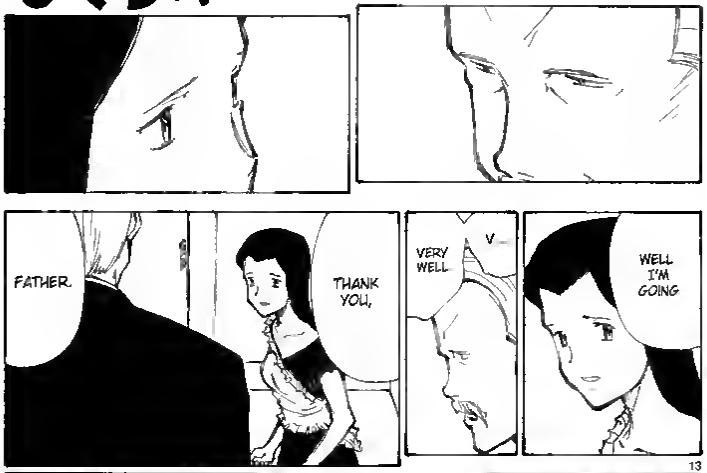

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE RECITAL WOULD HAPPEN THIS WAY?
I'VE DONE A TERRIBLE THING TO MY TEACHER AND EVERYONE ELSE
AND ALSO TO MAKI'S FATHER AND MOTHER...
TAKAMI
FATHER.
YOU CAME
Y... YES

OKAY.
BUT SHE'LL BE FINE
SHE'S STILL IN A BIT OF SHOCK
MOM DOING?
HOW IS..

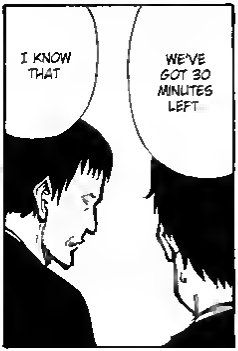

I COULD HANDLE BEING THE MOST EVIL PERSON IN THE WORLD,
IF IT MEANT PROTECTING THOSE CLOSEST TO ME.
I THINK I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, AS A SOLDIER.
OH, I HAD THOSE BROUGHT IN FOR ME


I'M GLAD,
I WAS YOUR DAUGHTER
BECAUSE IF I HADN'T BEEN YOURS,
THEN I DON'T THINK
I COULD STAND BEING HERE NOW
I WOULD BE TERRIFIED AND TRYING TO ESCAPE

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT...
THIS IS GOING TO CAUSE LOTS OF TROUBLE FOR YOU AND MOM AFTERWARD.
YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY?
I HAVE TO GO
BE SURE TO LISTEN TO MY PERFORMANCE
YES.
I KNOW IT'S ALL A BIG PHONY SHOW,
BUT I WANT YOU TO HEAR IT.
I WANTED MOM TO HEAR IT, TOO.


FATHER.
THANK YOU,
VERY WELL.
WELL I'M GOING

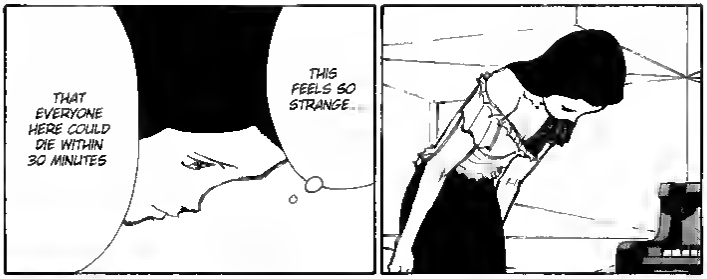
ISN'T HE COMING?

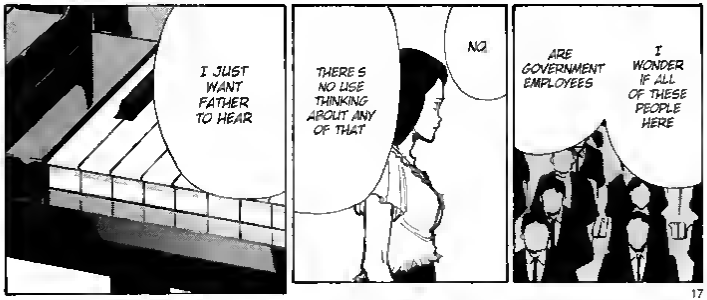

I KNOW THAT
WE'VE GOT 30 MINUTES LEFT

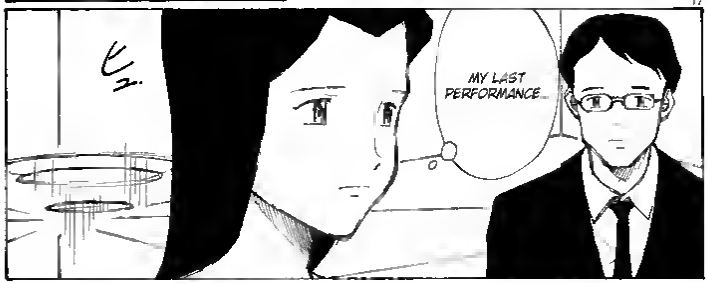
I HAVE A BIT OF EXPERIENCE WITH IT
IF I TURNED YOUR SHEET MUSIC?
WOULD YOU MIND,
YES?
I CAN DO FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY THAT THIS IS THE MOST USEFUL THING
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

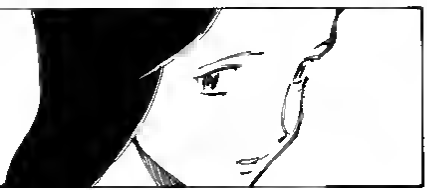
UH... RIGHT.
MISS KOMODA IS GOING TO GO ON NOW

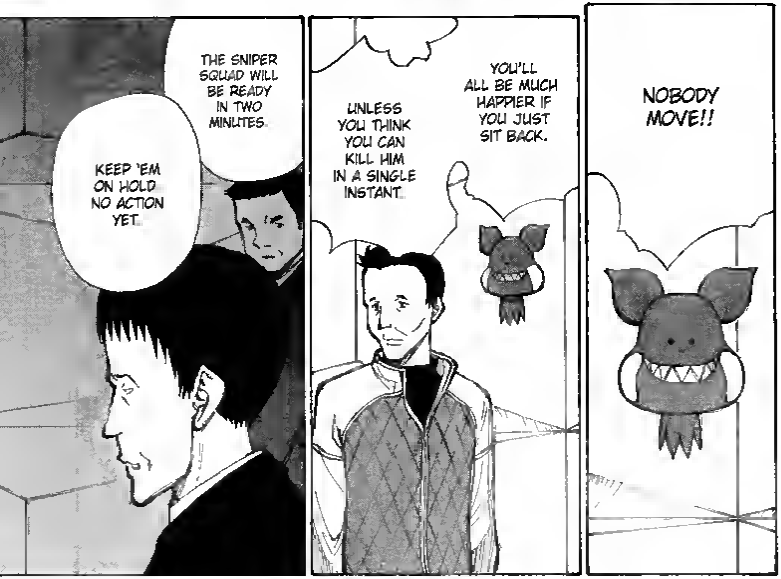
16

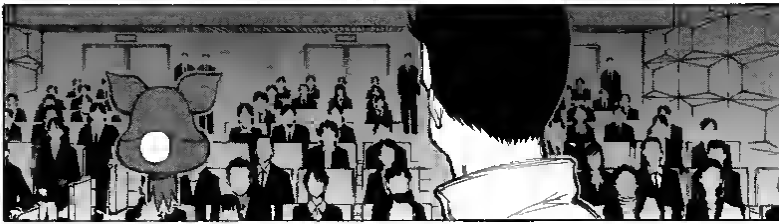

THIS FEELS SO STRANGE...
THAT EVERYONE HERE COULD DIE WITHIN 30 MINUTES

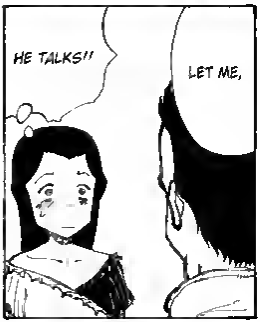

I WONDER IF ALL OF THESE PEOPLE HERE
ARE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NO.
THERE'S NO USE THINKING ABOUT ANY OF THAT
I JUST WANT FATHER TO HEAR

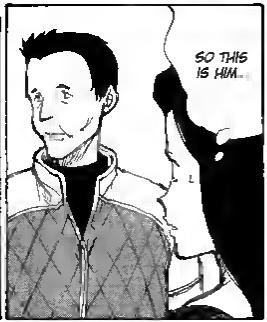

MY LAST PERFORMANCE...




THE SNIPER SQUAD WILL BE READY IN TWO MINUTES.
KEEP 'EM ON HOLD. NO ACTION YET.
UNLESS YOU THINK YOU CAN KILL HIM IN A SINGLE INSTANT.
YOU'LL ALL BE MUCH HAPPIER IF YOU JUST SIT BACK.
NOBODY MOVE!!

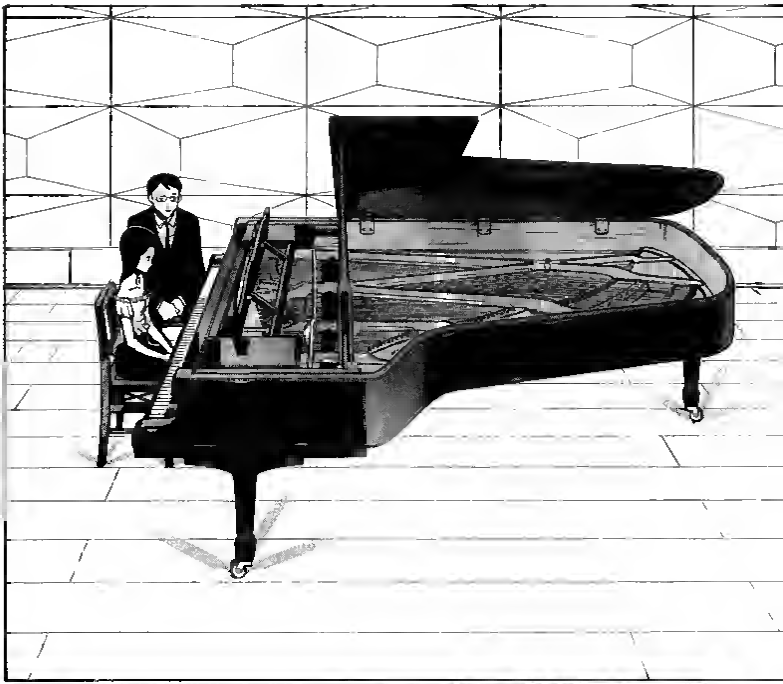



HE TALKS!!
LET ME,

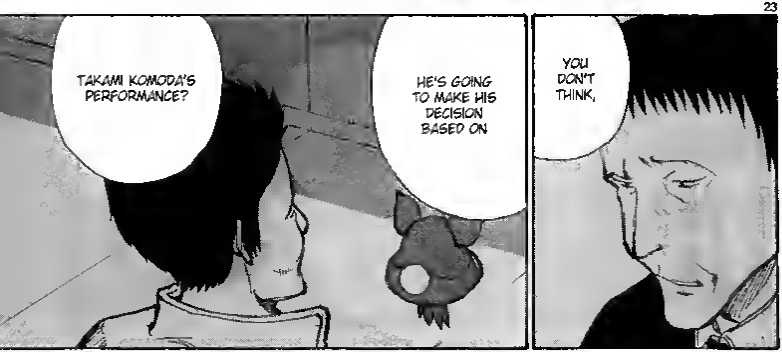

SO THIS IS HIM.

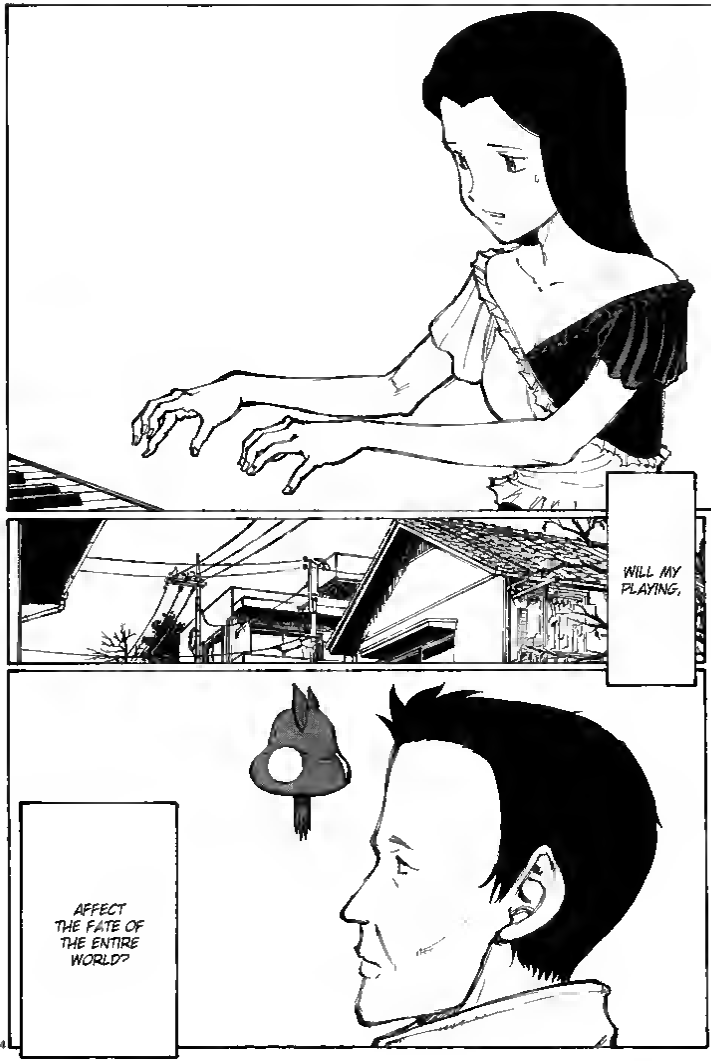
YOUR PIANO PLAYING.
LET ME HEAR,

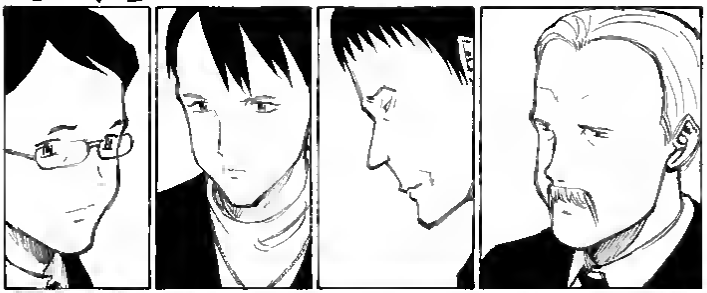
OKAY!!
O...
NOT THAT I HAVE MUCH ROOM TO SPEAK.
YOU SURE DO HAVE YOUR WHIMS

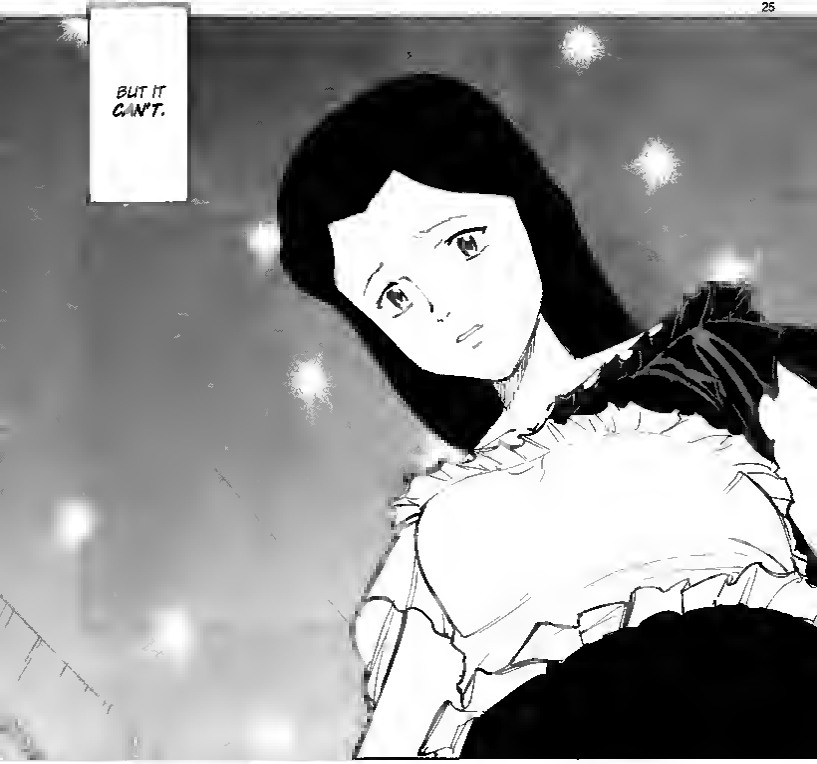


JUST SO HE COULD LOSE?
BUT... WHY...?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT... HE CAME
THE ENEMY PILOT HAS MADE AN APPEARANCE


TAKAMI KOMODA'S PERFORMANCE?
HE'S GOING TO MAKE HIS DECISION BASED ON
YOU DON'T THINK,


WILL MY PLAYING,
AFFECT THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD?




BUT IT CAN'T.

タラ〜ン

THE SOUND
IS BRITTLE
27
HAVE I GONE BACK
TO THE OLD ME?
WHERE THE PIANO
WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT I TELL IT?
MY FINGERS
SHOULD BE MOVING...

CHAPTER 36/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
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Kanji Yoshikawa
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(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

CHAPTER 37
TAKAMI KOMODA (5)

WHAT SHE NOTICED IN THE INSTANT BEFORE HER DEATH.

鬼頭
Kito Mohiro
莫宏

NO!
IT'S NOT GOING SMOOTHLY.
THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
WHY ISN'T IT?

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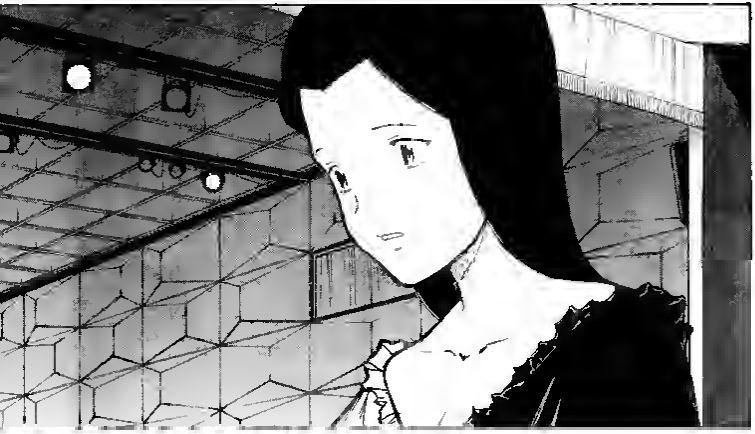
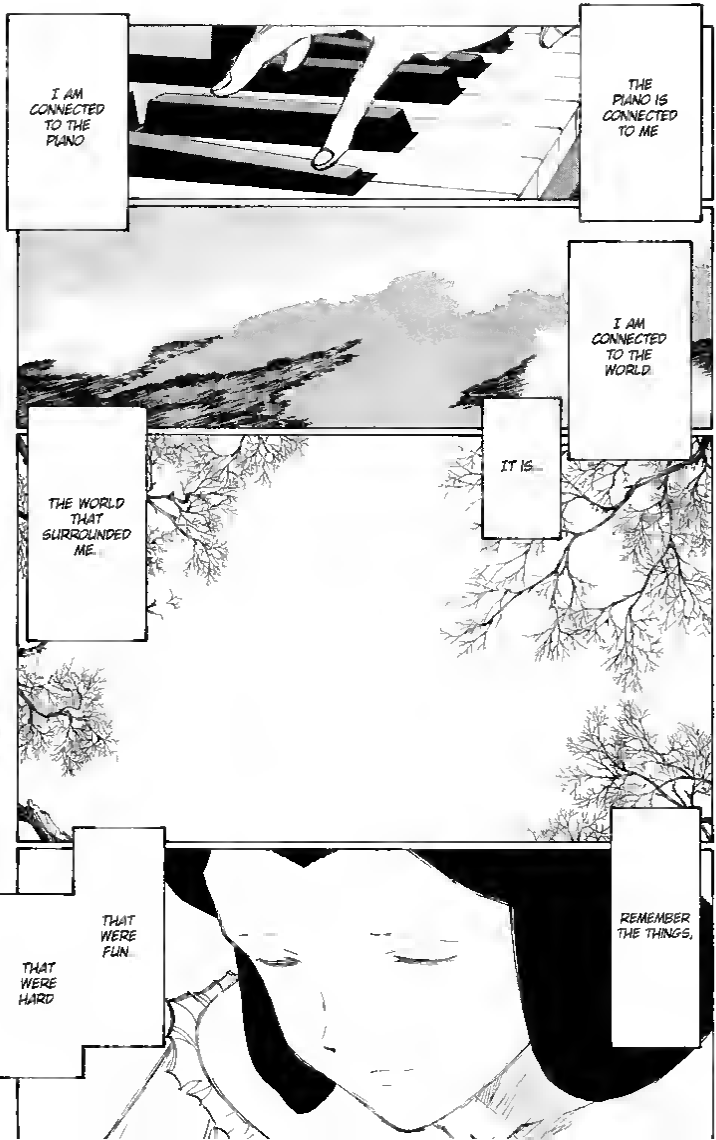
EVEN THOUGH HE'S LISTENING
THE FATHER WHOSE DAUGHTER WAS KILLED
AT MY AGE.
HOW MUST I SEEM, REFLECTED IN HIS EYES?
FATHER
WHAT WILL FATHER DO,
AFTER I'VE DIED?
I REMEMBER NOW...

BUT NOT NOW.
IF I QUIT THE MILITARY, I'LL TRY PLAYING IT.
HE HAD ONCE SAID
4
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT MAKES ME FEEL TOO GENTLE.
WHY NOT?
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
HOWEVER,

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PLAY WELL,
IT'S AN ENJOYABLE THING TO TRY.
THE PIANO,
IS HONEST.



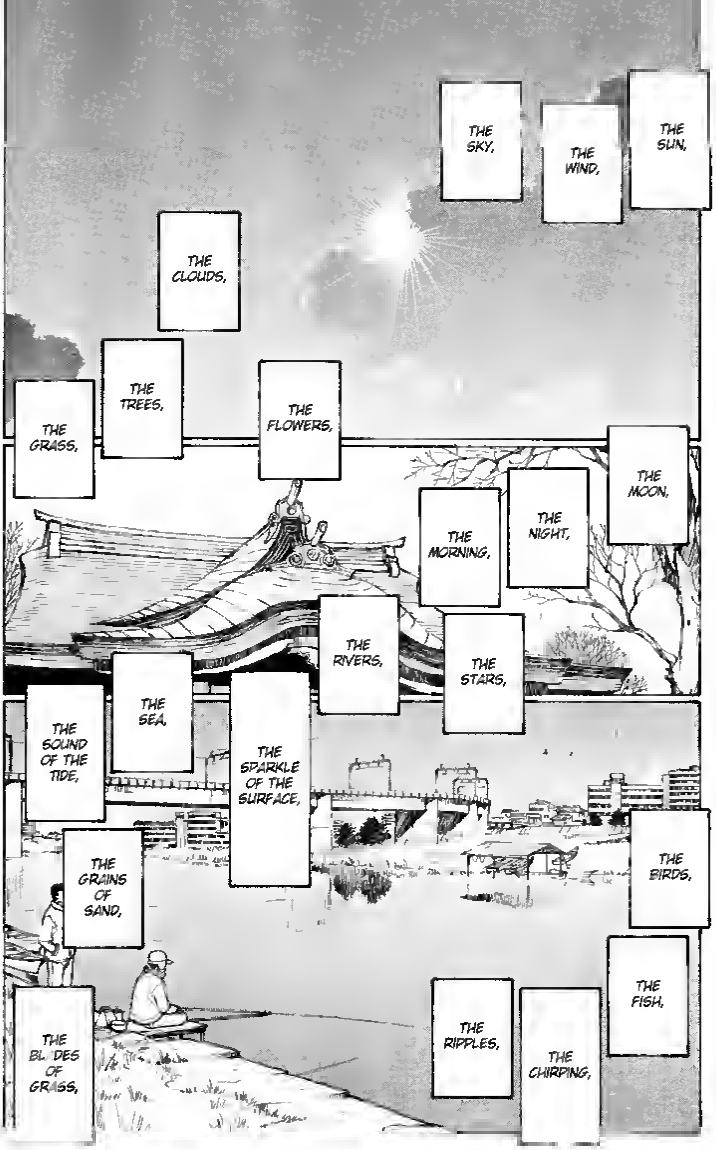
ENJOY-ABLE?
HONEST?
HE'S RIGHT.
I MUSN'T TRY TO MAKE THE PIANO OBEY.
I MUST LISTEN TO THE PIANO'S SOUND.
WHAT IS THE PIANO TELLING ME?
THAT'S IT.
I HAVE TO CONVERSE WITH THE PIANO

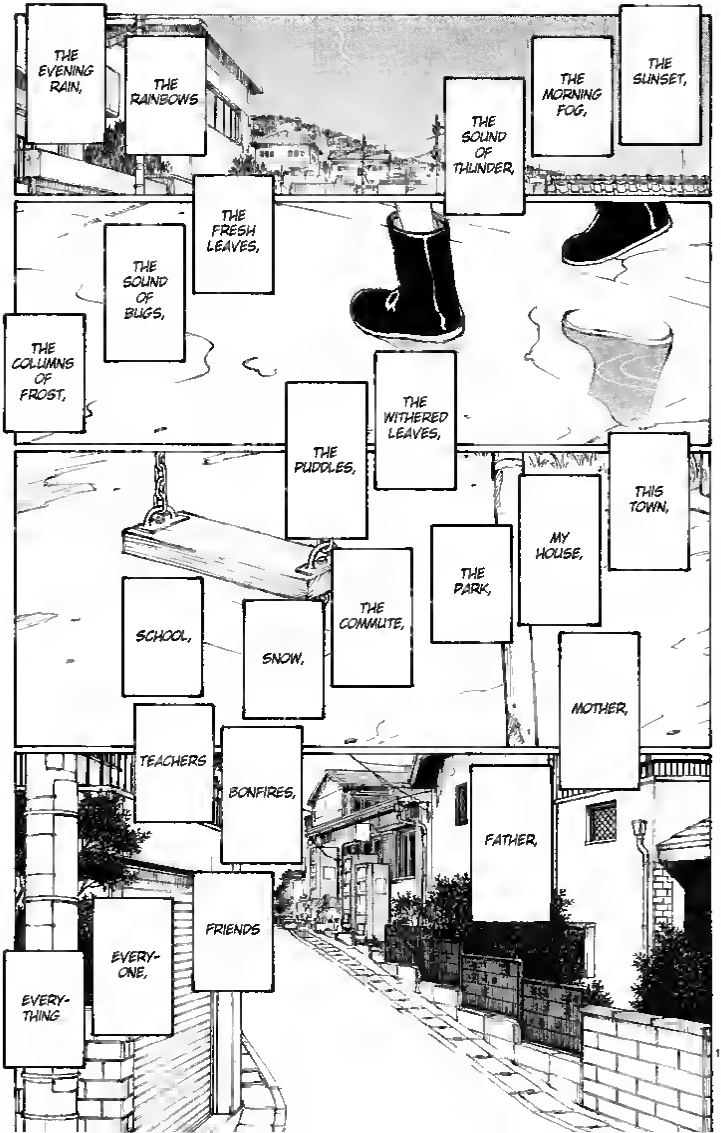

I AM CONNECTED TO THE PIANO
THE PIANO IS CONNECTED TO ME
I AM CONNECTED TO THE WORLD
IT IS...
THE WORLD THAT SURROUNDED ME
REMEMBER THE THINGS,
THAT WERE FUN
THAT WERE HARD

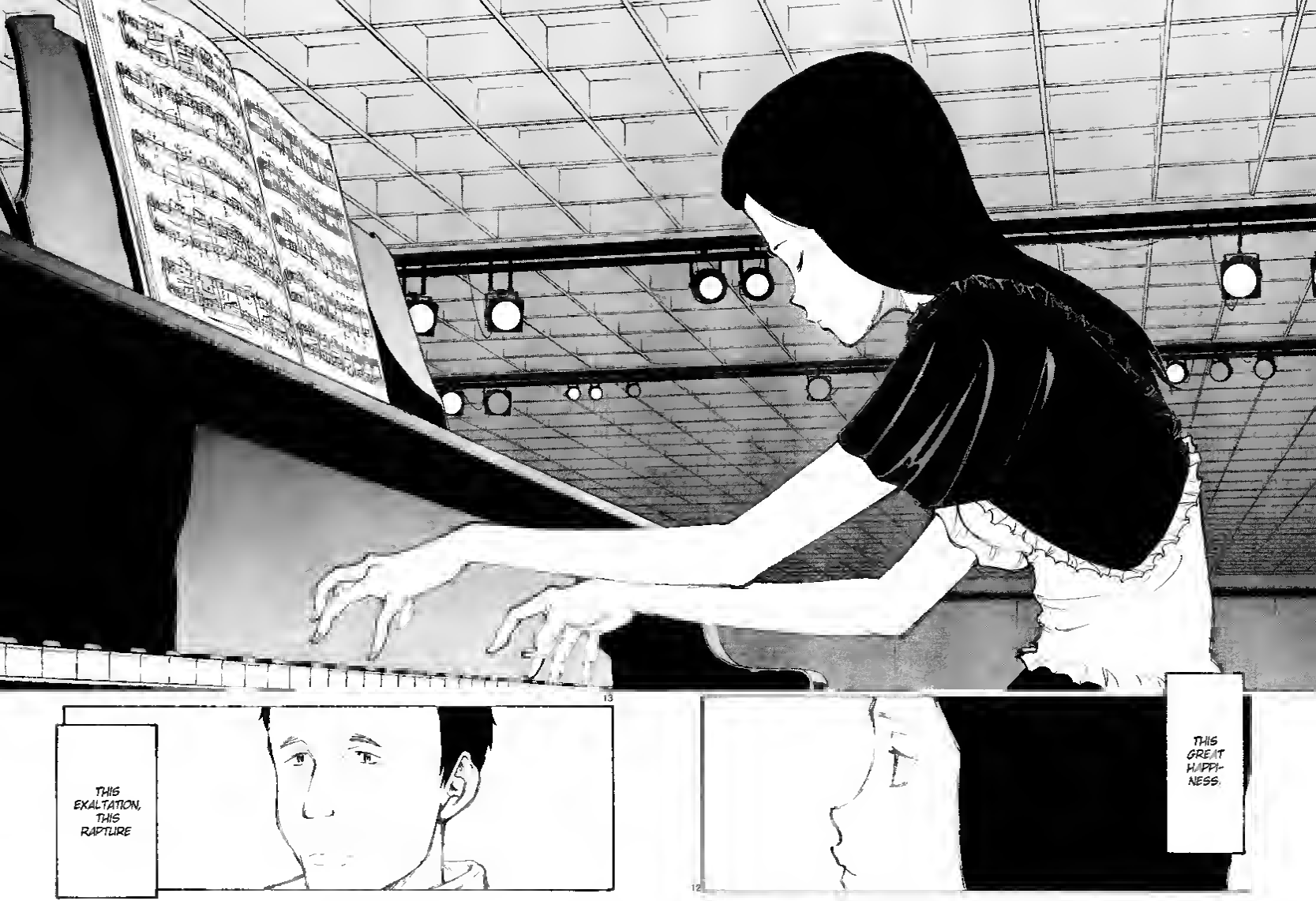
THE WORLD IS STILL BEAUTIFUL
I MEAN,
THE MELODIES ARE STILL PURE.

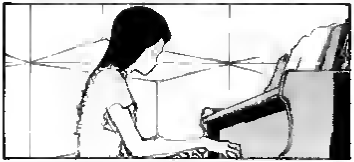
ぼくらの

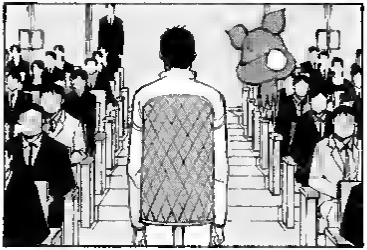
I CAN ACCEPT EVERYTHING
THAT IS WHY
THIS MIRACULOUS WORLD.
THIS DEAR, LOVELY WORLD.
THIS BEAUTIFUL WORLD
IT WAS KIND OF HARD TO UNDER-STAND, THOUGH...
I ONCE READ SOMETHING IN A BOOK
THAT THERE WERE 14 PHYSICAL FORMULAS THAT FORM THIS UNIVERSE,
AND THAT IF THE MATH IN ANY ONE OF THEM DIDN'T WORK PERFECTLY, THE UNIVERSE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN BORN.
THE PROBABILITY OF A MIRACLE.
A MIRACLE WORLD.

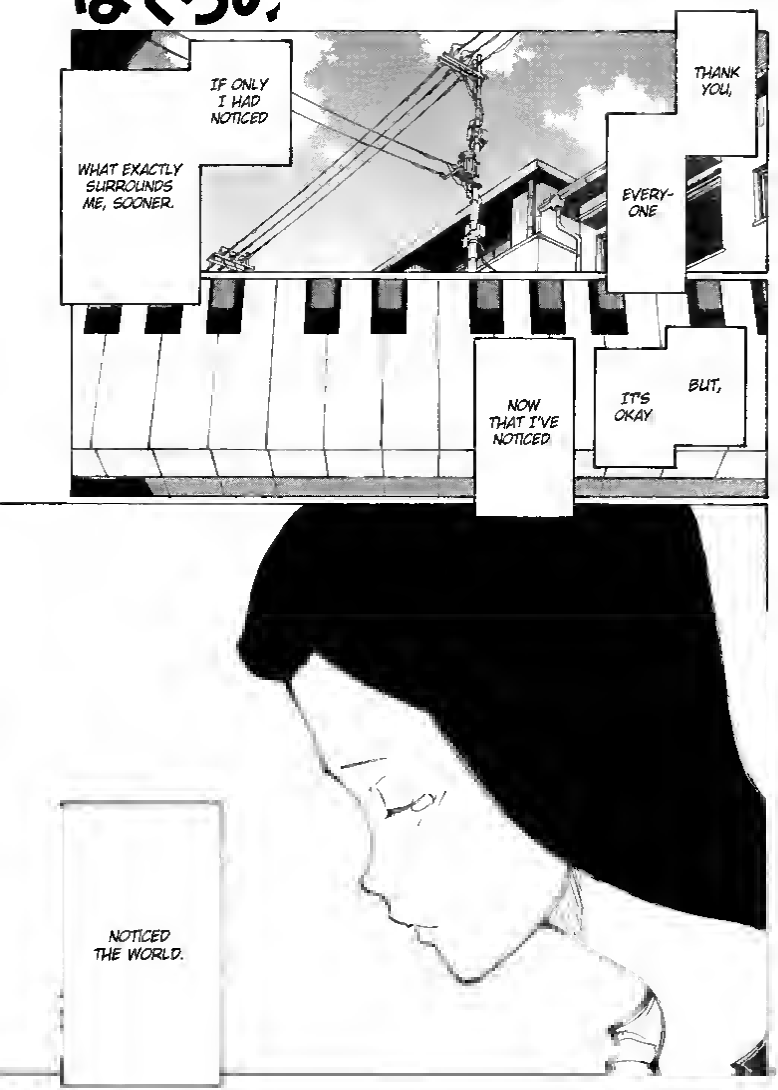

THE SKY,
THE WIND,
THE SUN,
THE CLOUDS,
THE TREES,
THE GRASS,
THE FLOWERS,
THE MOON,
THE MORNING,
THE NIGHT,
THE RIVERS,
THE STARS,
THE SEA,
THE SOUND OF THE TIDE,
THE SPARKLE OF THE SURFACE,
THE GRAINS OF SAND,
THE BIRDS,
THE FISH,
THE BLADES OF GRASS,
THE RIPPLES,
THE CHIRPING,

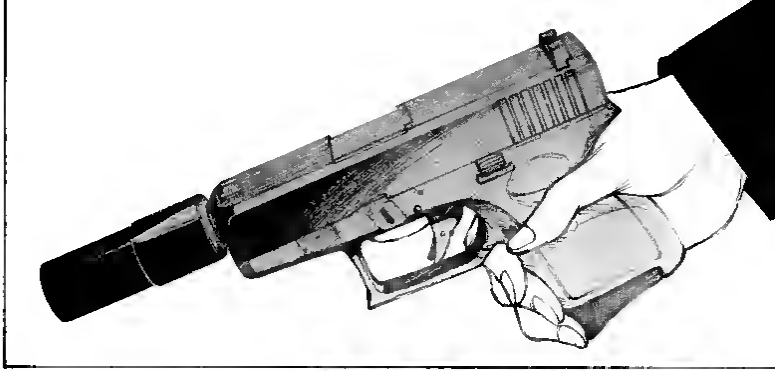

THE EVENING RAIN,
THE RAINBOWS
THE SOUND OF THUNDER,
THE MORNING FOG,
THE SUNSET,
THE FRESH LEAVES,
THE SOUND OF BUGS,
THE COLUMNS OF FROST,
THE WITHERED LEAVES,
THE PUDDLES,
THIS TOWN,
MY HOUSE,
THE PARK,
THE COMMUTE,
SCHOOL,
SNOW,
MOTHER,
TEACHERS
BONFIRES,
FATHER,
FRIENDS
EVERY-ONE,
EVERY-THING


THIS GREAT HAPPI-NESS.
THIS EXALTATION, THIS RAPTURE






IF ONLY I HAD NOTICED
WHAT EXACTLY SURROUNDS ME, SOONER.
THANK YOU,
EVERY-ONE
BUT,
IT'S OKAY
NOW THAT I'VE NOTICED
NOTICED THE WORLD.



FIVE MORE MINUTES

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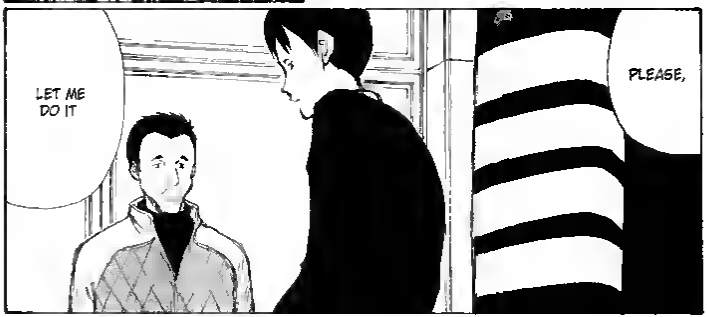
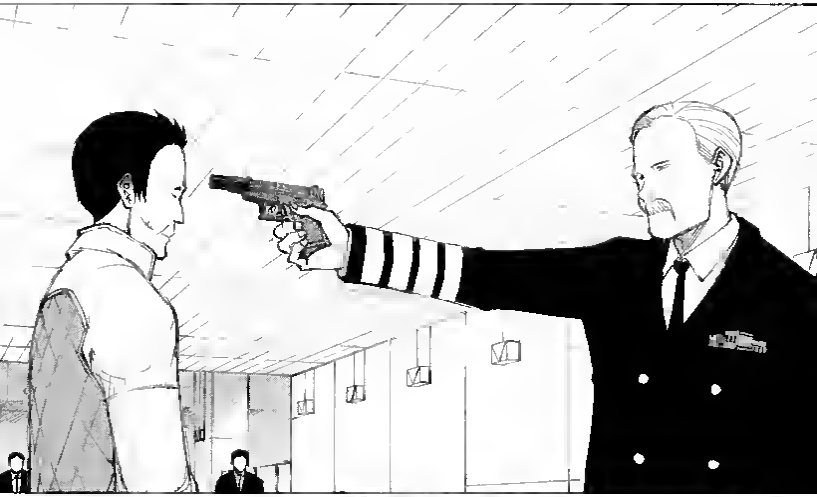
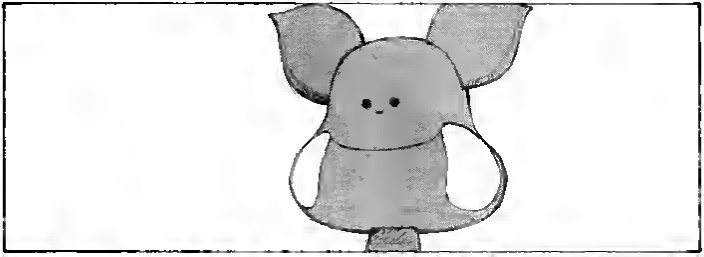
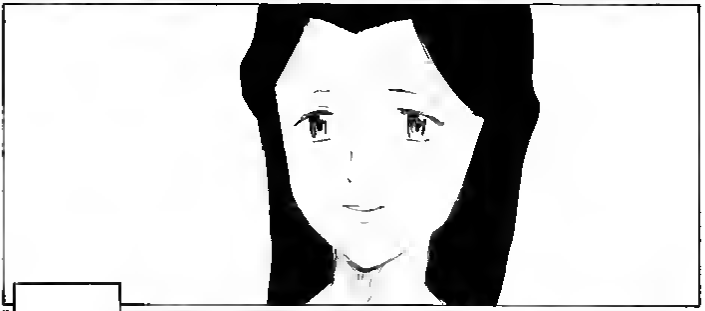

LET ME DO IT
PLEASE,

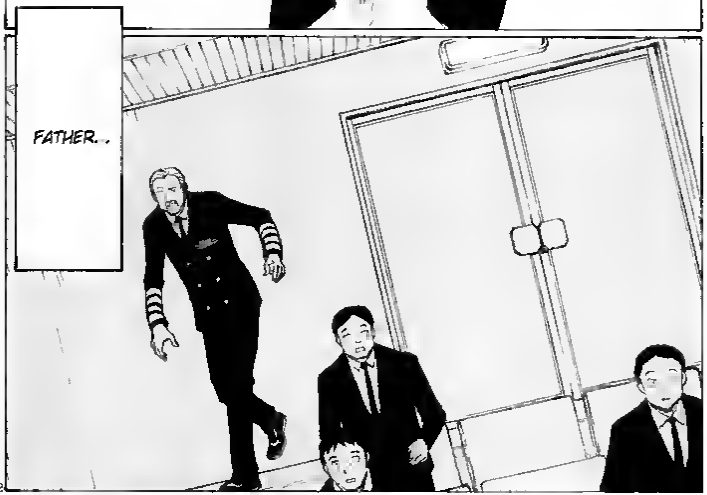
IT IS
MY JOB
YES, I UNDERSTAND
BUT...
BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHY I MUST BE THE ONE TO PULL THE TRIGGER





FATHER...
21
OHHH!
AH...
20




FATHER...

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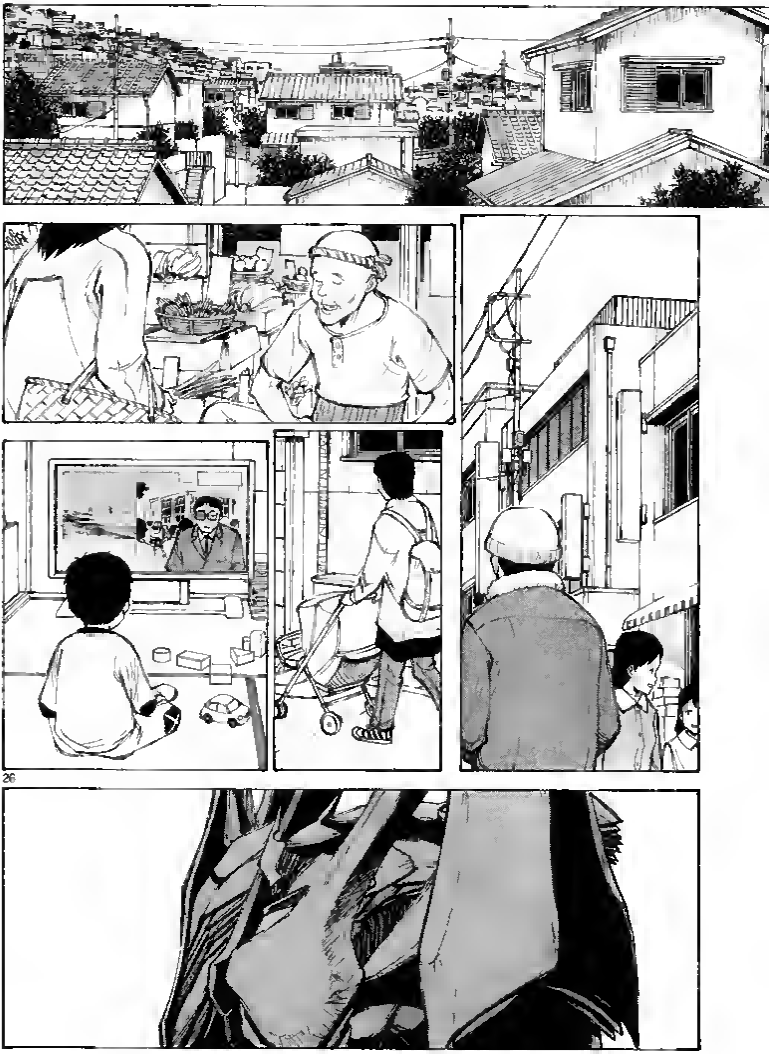
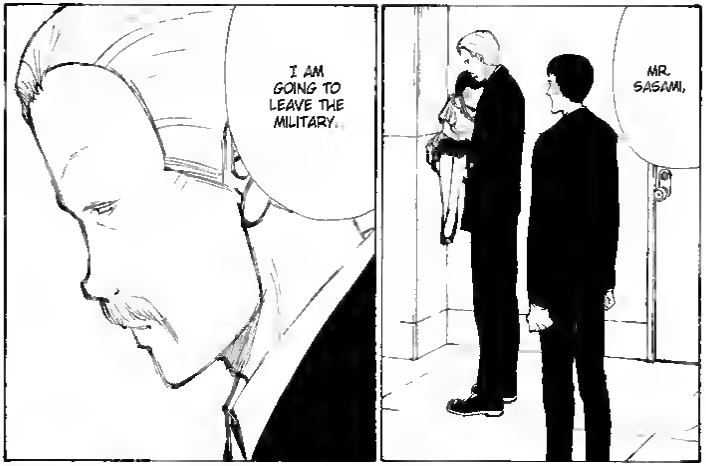


IS OVER
THE FIGHT
KOMO'S DAD WAS AT THE RECITAL HALL, WASN'T HE?
SAY,
KOMO TOOK THE FALL...

I WONDER IF HE GOT A CHANCE TO SEE HER


I AM GOING TO LEAVE THE MILITARY.
MR. SASAMI,

THE HANDS,
THAT KILLED MY DAUGHTER.
I MIGHT LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO WITH THESE HANDS?
DO YOU THINK,
AS YOU WISH

I REALIZE THIS MIGHT NOT BE MUCH CONSOLATION,
MR. KOMODA,
ER, I MEAN...
COLONEL KOMODA...
SERENE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE.
BUT SHE HAS A VERY CONTENT

CHAPTER 37/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
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Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

WHAT WILL I BE CAPABLE OF FIGHTING FOR?
WHAT WILL I FIGHT FOR?
MY TURN HAS COME.
10 OF OUR NUMBER HAVE DIED. NOW, IT'S MY TURN.
Color pages to celebrate the anime!!
ぼくらの
Bokurano

I ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO IDOL SINGERS.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE ONE...

Bokurano Volume 6
on sale December 26th!!

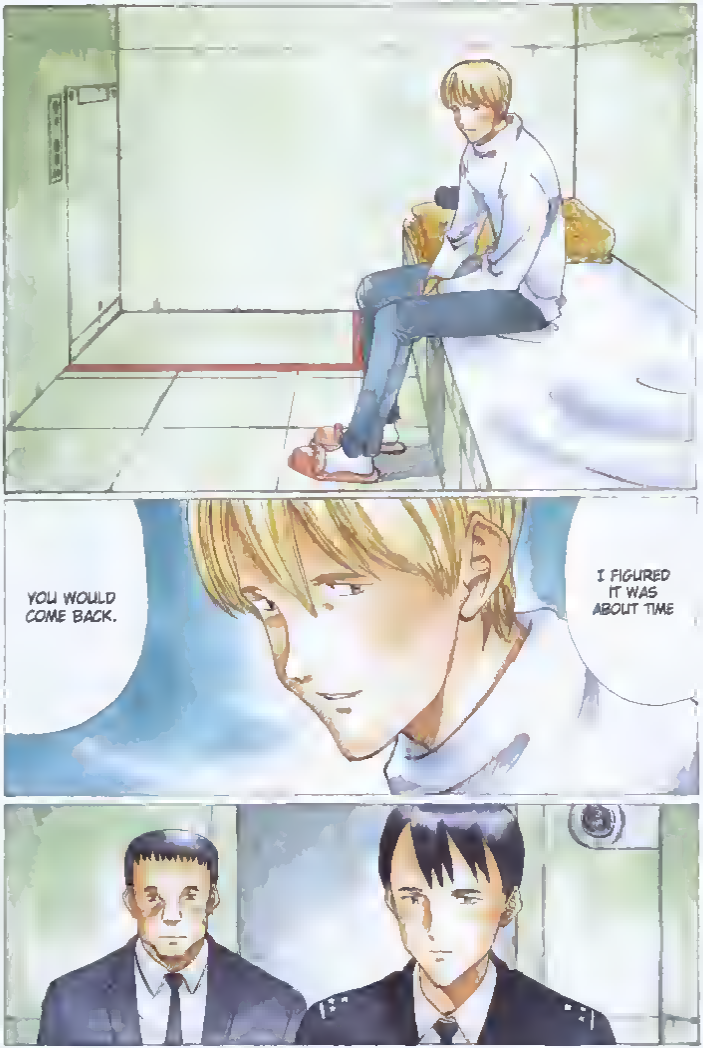
Details on p.41!

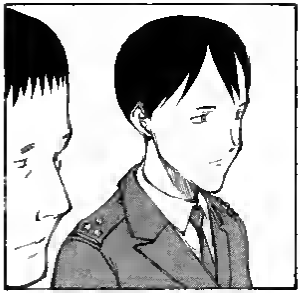
ぼくらの

鬼頭莫宏

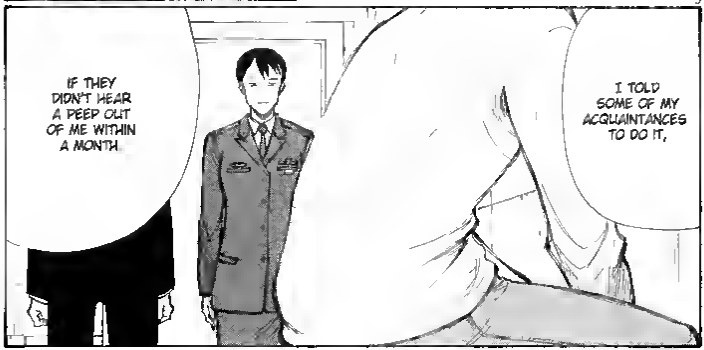
Kito Mokuhiro

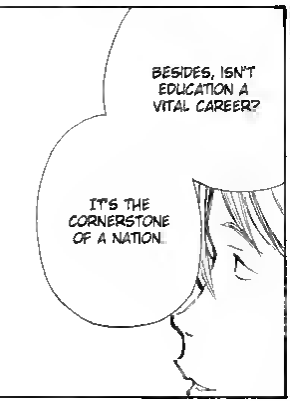
CHAPTER 38
AIKO TOKOSUMI (1)


YOU WOULD COME BACK.
I FIGURED IT WAS ABOUT TIME

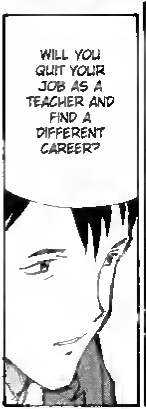


SO I'VE TAKEN OUT SOME INSURANCE
EVEN I CARE ABOUT MY PERSONAL SAFETY.

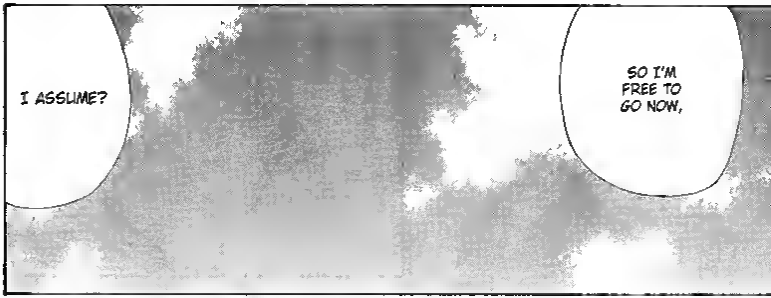

IF THEY DIDN'T HEAR A PEEP OUT OF ME WITHIN A MONTH
I TOLD SOME OF MY ACQUAINTANCES TO DO IT,


BESIDES, ISN'T EDUCATION A VITAL CAREER?
IT'S THE CORNERSTONE OF A NATION.

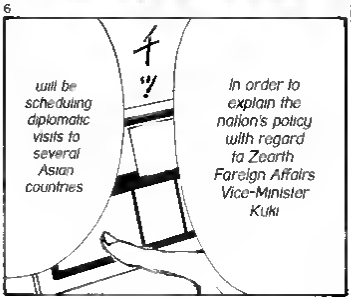
I'D PREFER NOT TO BE A CAT'S-PAW TO SOMEONE ELSE

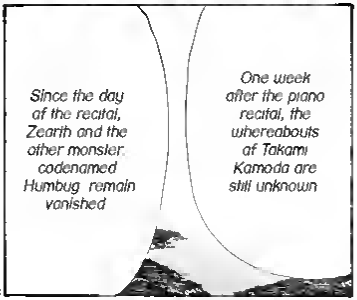

WILL YOU QUIT YOUR JOB AS A TEACHER AND FIND A DIFFERENT CAREER?

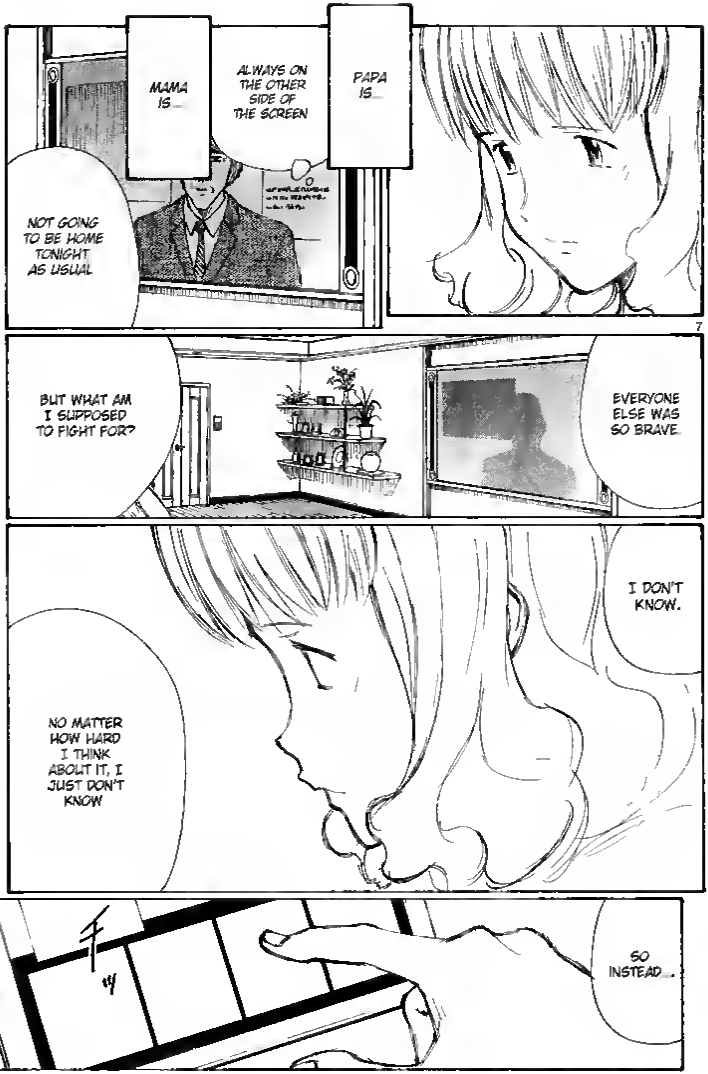
IS THERE?
THERE'S NO LONGER ANY REASON TO KEEP ME HERE.


I ASSUME?
SO I'M FREE TO GO NOW,

about Zearth
And now, the latest news


will be scheduling diplomatic visits to several Asian countries
In order to explain the nation's policy with regard to Zearth Foreign Affairs Vice-Minister Kuki


Since the day of the recital, Zearth and the other monster codenamed Humbug remain vanished
One week after the piano recital, the whereabouts of Takami Kamoda are still unknown


MAMA IS...
ALWAYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN
PAPA IS...
NOT GOING TO BE HOME TONIGHT AS USUAL
7
BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO FIGHT FOR?
EVERYONE ELSE WAS SO BRAVE.
I DON'T KNOW.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I THINK ABOUT IT, I JUST DON'T KNOW
SO INSTEAD...

YAYY!!
WOOHOOO!!

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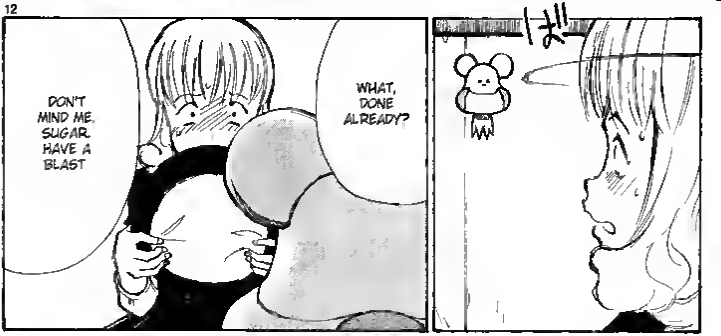
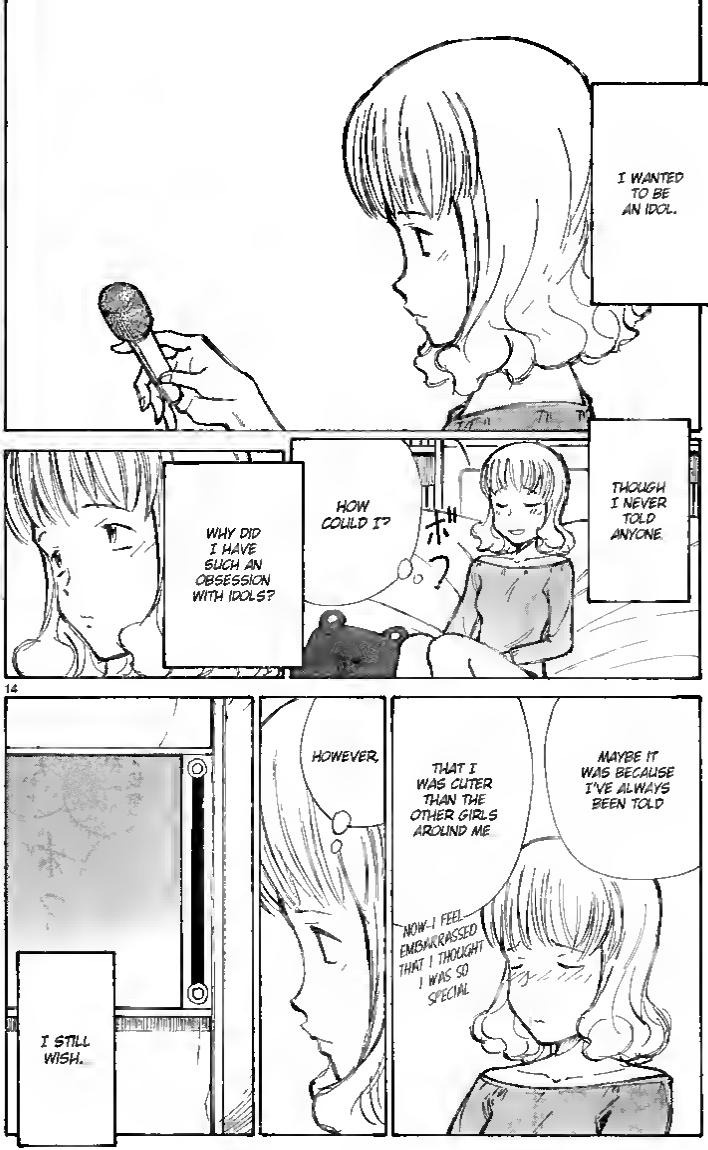
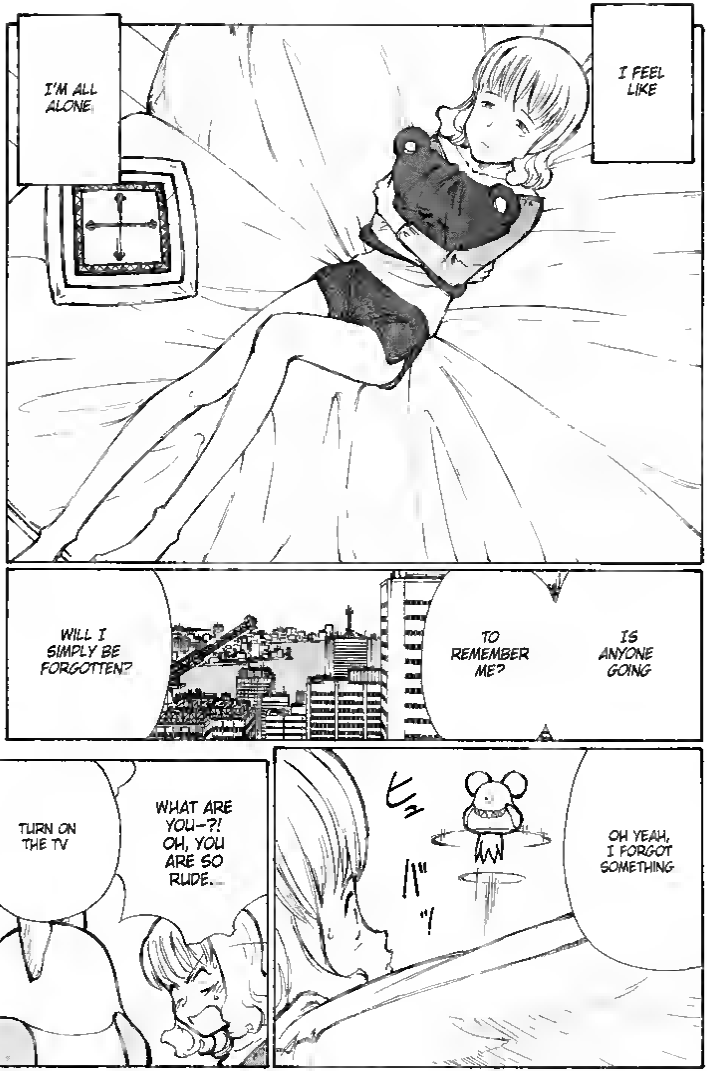

WHAT, DONE ALREADY?
DON'T MIND ME. SUGAR. HAVE A BLAST
ばば!!

YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING PLAYING IDOL
YOU ARE SUCH A NASTY LITTLE...
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? YOU'RE DOING IT SO PEOPLE WILL WATCH YOU, RIGHT?
WELL, ASSUMING THE DAY WILL COME.
FORGET THIS
I'M NOT DOING IT FOR YOU
ホ"ッ"
YOU CAN'T CHOOSE YOUR AUDIENCE, SUGAR
YOU CAN DANCE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
YOU'VE GOT SOME MOVES
LATER
THE SINGING COULD USE SOME WORK THOUGH.
SHUT UP.
WHAT DID HE EVEN SHOW UP FOR?
JUST TO SAY THAT?!

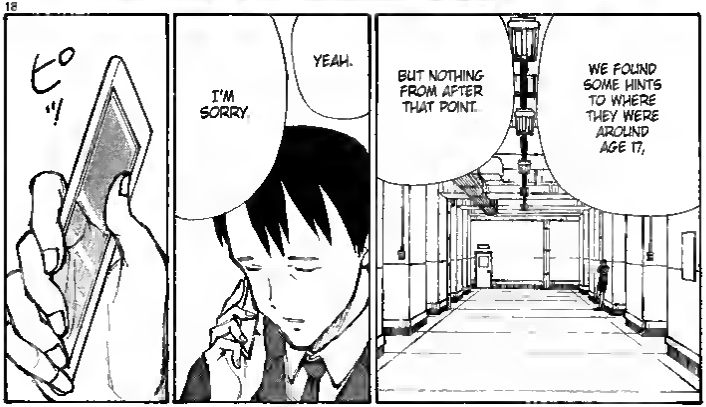

I WANTED TO BE AN IDOL.
THOUGH I NEVER TOLD ANYONE.
HOW COULD I?
ボフ
WHY DID I HAVE SUCH AN OBSESSION WITH IDOLS?
MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD
THAT I WAS CUTER THAN THE OTHER GIRLS AROUND ME.
HOWEVER,
NOW...I FEEL EMBARRASSED THAT I THOUGHT I WAS SO SPECIAL
I STILL WISH.

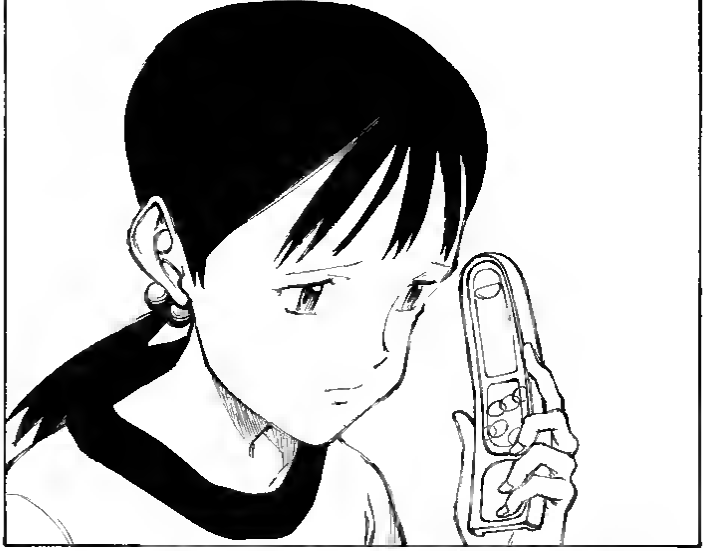
VISUAL OFF
I COULD HAVE GONE THERE
WHEN I WAS A KID,
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER MEET PAPA UNLESS I MADE IT.
I RARELY EVER SAW HIM AT HOME.
AFTER A TIME, MAMA BEGAN TO LEAVE THE HOUSE AS WELL.
THAT'S WHY THEY PUT ME IN THAT SUMMER SCHOOL.
I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT KOMO'S RECITAL FROM MRS. TANAKA.
I'M JEALOUS OF HER

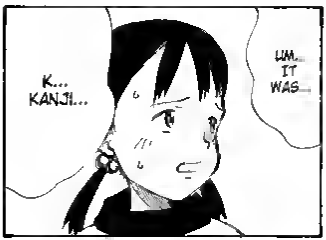
I HAD THOUGHT THAT KOMO'S FATHER WAS A LOT LIKE PAPA,
BUT HE'S NOT, REALLY.
HE'S JUST NOT VERY GOOD AT EXPRESSING LOVE
WHAT WOULD PAPA AND MAMA DO, IF I TOLD THEM I WAS GOING TO FIGHT IN THAT THING?
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT PROTECTING SOMEONE ELSE
I WAS ALWAYS TOO CONCERNED WITH MYSELF.
AT THE WORST, I MIGHT LET EVERYONE ELSE'S FIGHTING GO TO WASTE.


I'M ALL ALONE
I FEEL LIKE
WILL I SIMPLY BE FORGOTTEN?
IS ANYONE GOING TO REMEMBER ME?
TURN ON THE TV
WHAT ARE YOU-?! OH, YOU ARE SO RUDE...
OH YEAH, I FORGOT SOMETHING

YES, I'M SORRY.
WE LOOKED FOR THE PERSON YOU ASKED ABOUT,
BUT WERE UNSUC-CESSFUL.
BUT I COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT TIMING.
I WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO TELL YOU EARLIER,

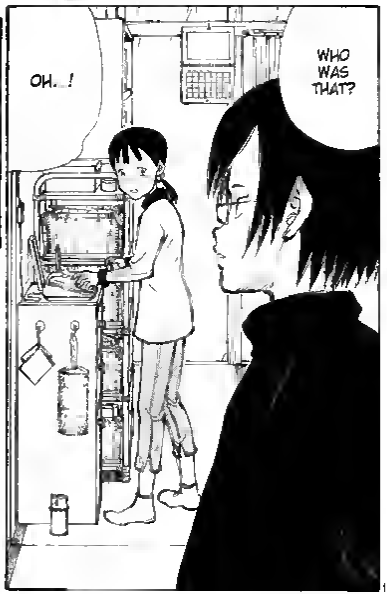

YEAH.
I'M SORRY.
BUT NOTHING FROM AFTER THAT POINT.
WE FOUND SOME HINTS TO WHERE THEY WERE AROUND AGE 17,



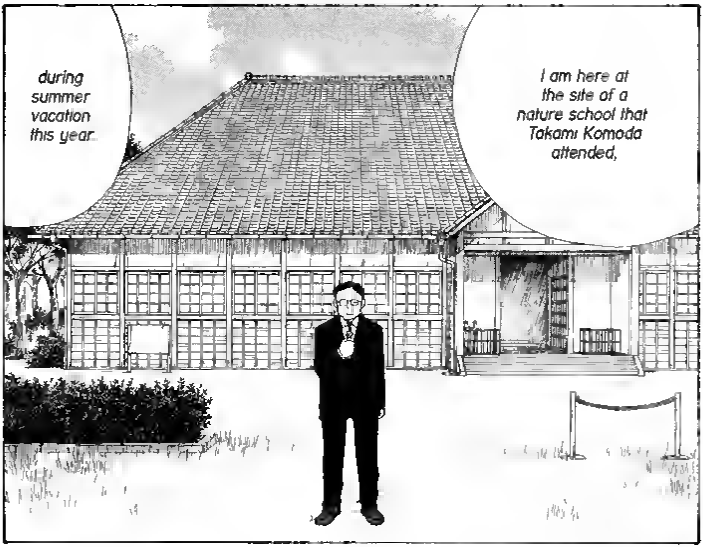

K... KANJI...
UM... IT WAS...

FOR YOU?

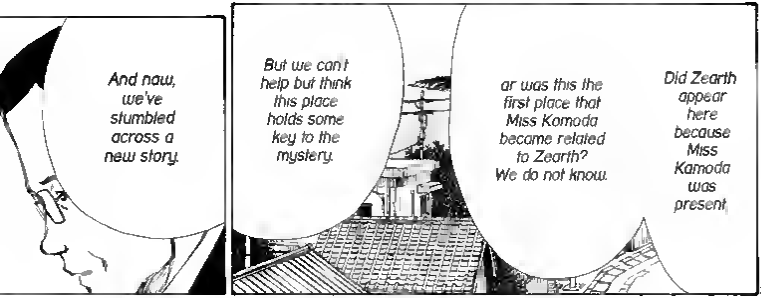
Y... YEAH.


OH..!
WHO WAS THAT?

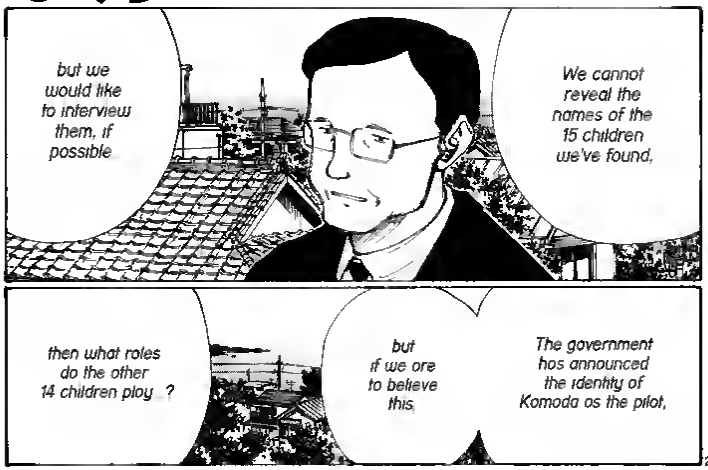
WHO WAS IT?
DON'T FUCKIN' LIE TO ME.
HUH?

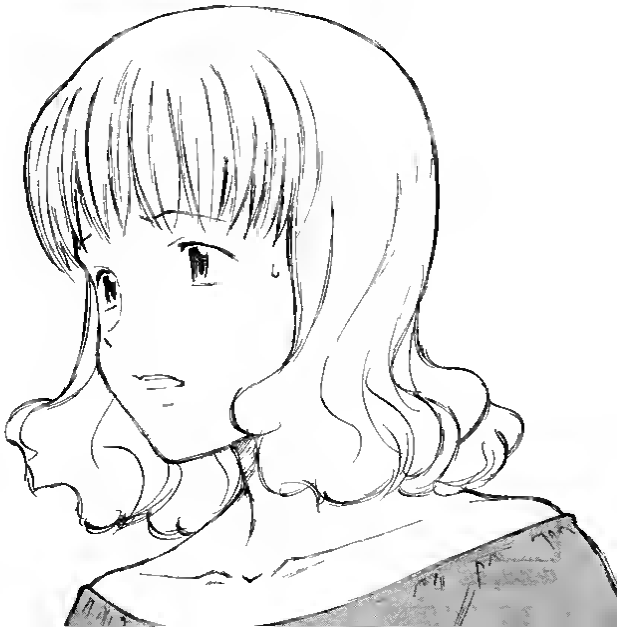

during summer vacation this year.
I am here at the site of a nature school that Takami Komoda attended,

and Miss Komoda happened to be present an the day it appeared
This town, in fact is the first place Zearth was witnessed,


And now, we've stumbled across a new story.
But we can't help but think this place holds some key to the mystery.
ar was this the first place that Miss Komoda became related to Zearth? We do not know.
Did Zearth appear here because Miss Kamoda was present

This newly uncovered piece of information is...
That, at the very least, ten children have been involved
with Zearth
Strangely enough, there were 15 kids at this nature school,
and we believe that these 15 kids have some sort of connection to Zearth


We cannot reveal the names of the 15 children we've found,
but we would like to interview them, if possible
The government has announced the identity of Komoda as the pilot,
but if we are to believe this
then what roles do the other 14 children play ?



ARE CLEARLY INVOLVED.
THESE CHILDREN
24
HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THE SOURCE?
WE REALLY GOT BEATEN TO THE PUNCH, HERE.
I MEAN, THIS IS PRETTY MUCH SOLID.
PERHAPS NOT *PERFECTLY*, BUT CONSIDERING ZEARTH'S SIZE, A FEW KILOMETERS OFF ISN'T GOING TO MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.
ZEARTH'S MATERIALIZATION POINTS AND THE KIDS' LOCATIONS IN JAPAN FIT JUST ABOUT PERFECTLY.

BUT THE OTHER STATIONS DIDN'T BEAT US TO THE PUNCH THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
THEY JUST HAD SOMEONE SEND THEM THE INFO OR SOMETHING
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!

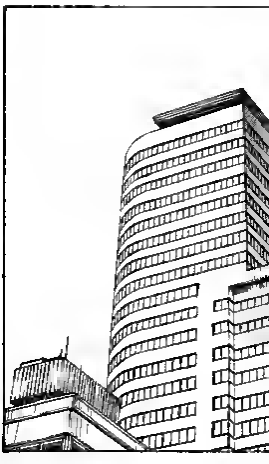
ARE YOU LISTENING, MR TOKOSUMI?
OH? YES

ANY-WAY,
ACCORDING TO OUR ROUGH CHECK,
SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE GONE MISSING, AND

GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES ALONE.

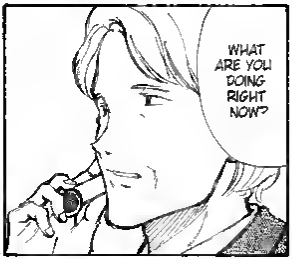
AIKO'S NAME?
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

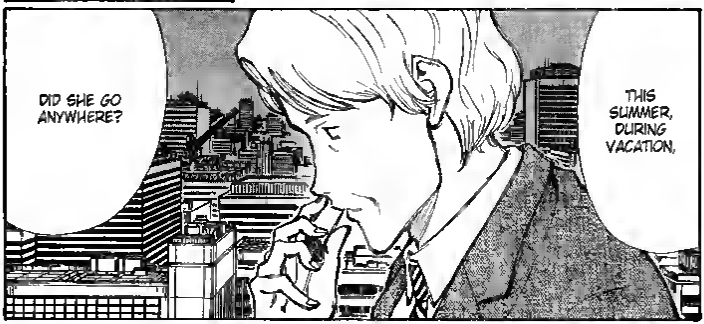
SORRY FOR CALLING
YEAH, IT'S ME.



I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT AIKO
UH, ANYWAYS

I DON'T HAVE A NEED TO KNOW.
RIGHT, SORRY


WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?


DID SHE GO ANYWHERE?
THIS SUMMER, DURING VACATION,

LIKE, DID SHE STAY WITH ANYONE, OR...
SO DID SHE LEAVE ANYWHERE?
DON'T MENTION THAT
NO, NO, IT'S FINE
YEAH.
AHH.
THANK-...
OKAY.

WAS THERE?
AIKO
AND SHE NEVER SPOKE A WORD OF IT TO ME.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I KNOW SHE SAW THE ROBOT WITH HER OWN EYES.
28
WHAT THE--?
ONE OF THEM HAS YOUR LAST NAME. THAT'S FUNNY
WE WANT TO START OFF BY COVERING THE KIDS WHO WERE AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL
TOKO-SUMI,

SHE'S
MY DAUGHTER.
I'LL BE BACK.
SEND THE COPY TO MY CAR.
HUH...? BUT-
I'LL BE BACK BY REHEARSAL
MR. TOKOSUMI!!!
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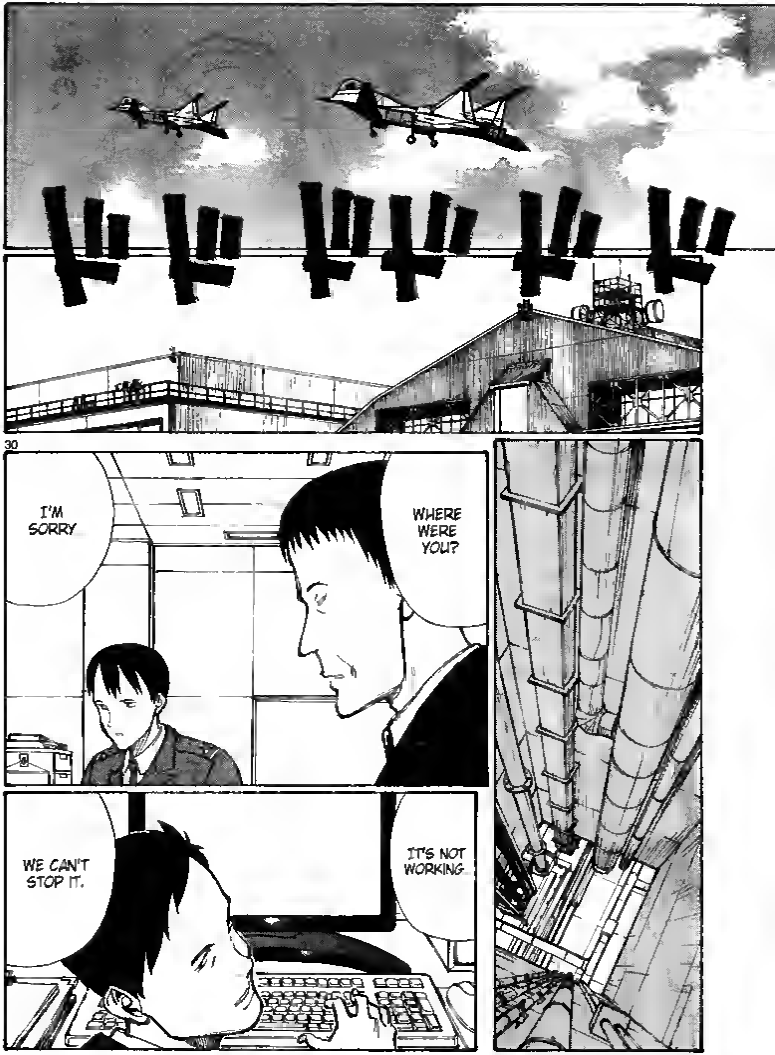
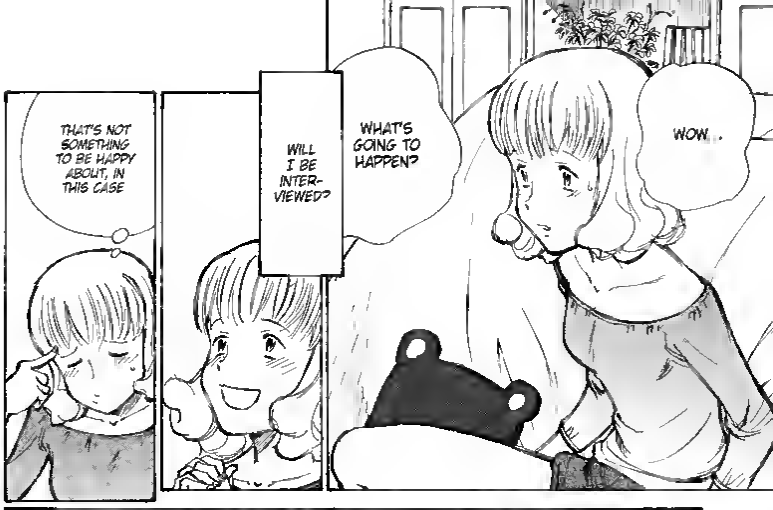
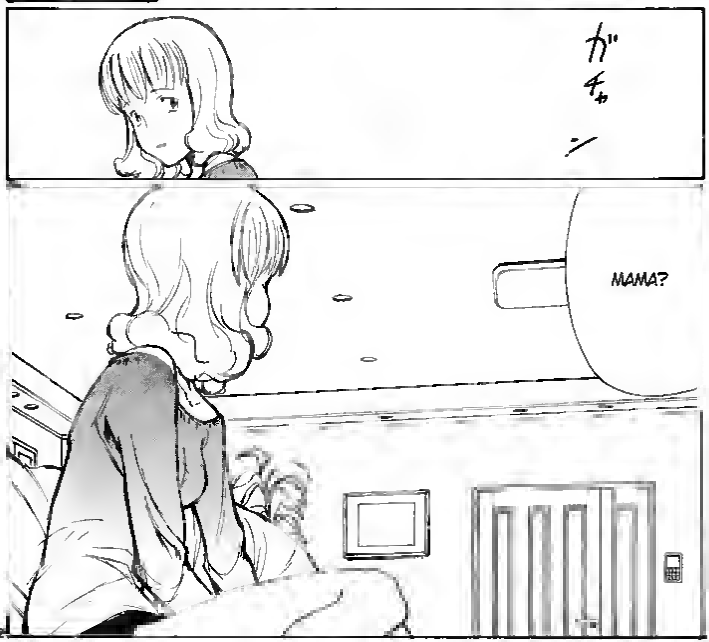
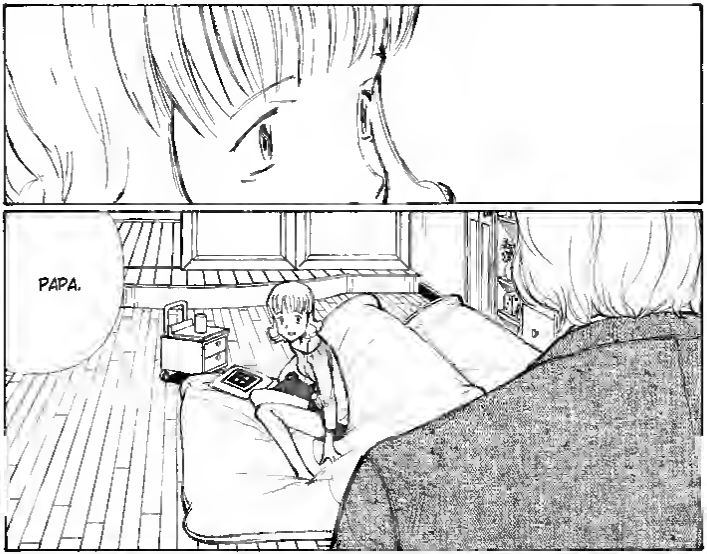
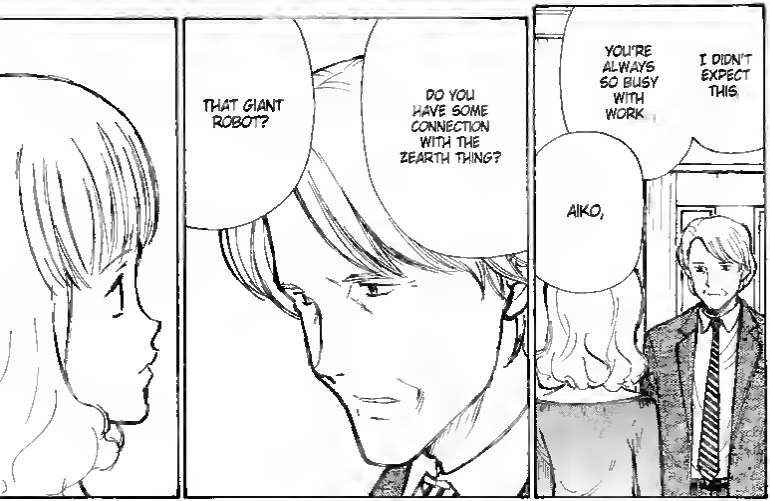

30
I'M SORRY
WHERE WERE YOU?
WE CAN'T STOP IT.
IT'S NOT WORKING

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY MENTION OF THE ZEARTH PILOTING,
BUT THEY'RE CERTAINLY BEING SEEN AS COMPANIONS OF KOMODA'S.
IS LEAKING ALL OVER THE NEWS NETWORKS
THE LIST OF CHILDREN FROM THE SCHOOL
I GUESS THAT'S A LESSON TO US, NOT TO TAKE HALF-MEASURES
THAT TEACHER.
IT WAS HIM.
WE'LL HAVE TO REDRAW CONTRACTS WITH THE MEDIA OUTLETS


WOW...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
WILL I BE INTER-VIEWED?
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT, IN THIS CASE


MAMA?


PAPA.


I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO BUSY WITH WORK
AIKO,
DO YOU HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE ZEARTH THING?
THAT GIANT ROBOT?

THE NEXT TIME IT APPEARS.
I'M GOING TO BE THE PILOT,
YES.
A FATHER MORE INTERESTED IN "OUR SECRET" THAN HIS "DAUGHTER."
ANKO BEGINS TO TELL THAT SECRET.

CHAPTER 38/END

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Maki Ano
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Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

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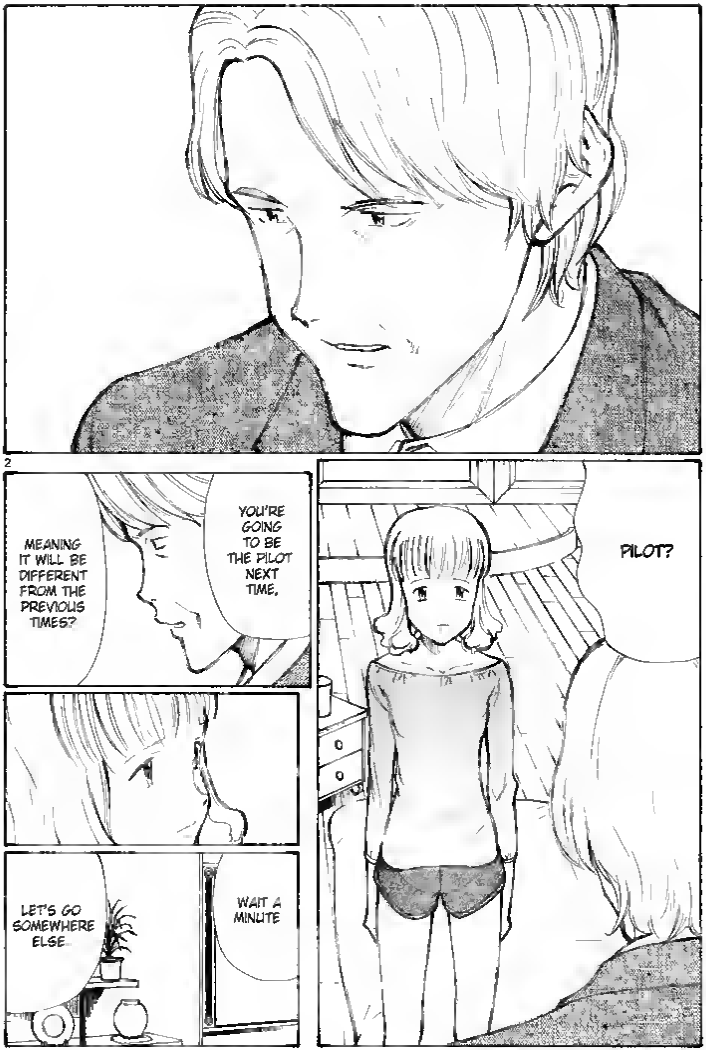
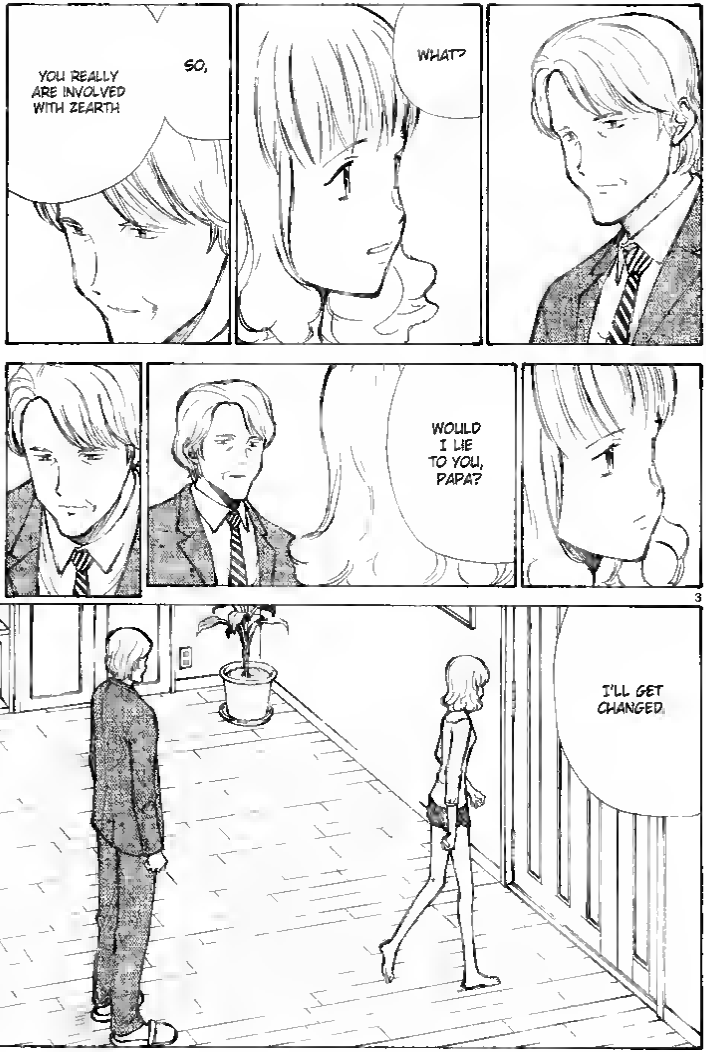
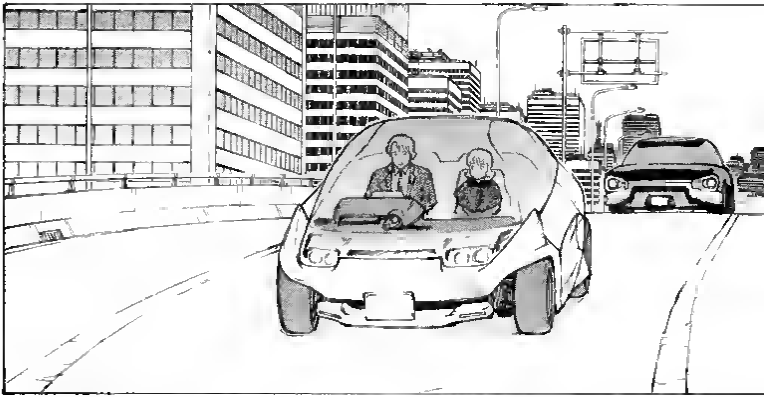
CHAPTER 39
AIKO TOKOSUMI (2)

PAPA IS ONLY INTERESTED IN ZEARTH, NOT ME.

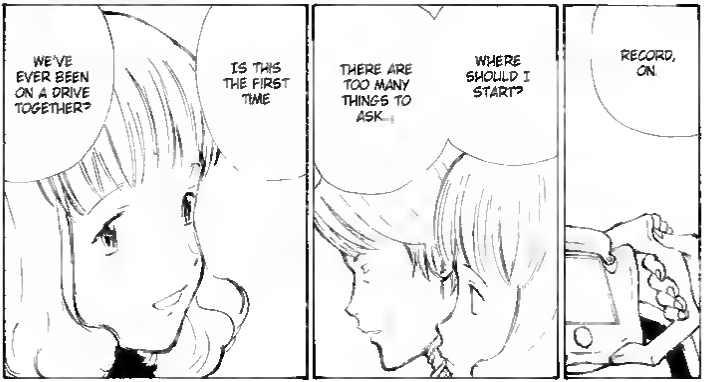
鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro


2
PILOT?
YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE PILOT NEXT TIME,
MEANING IT WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS TIMES?
WAIT A MINUTE
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE

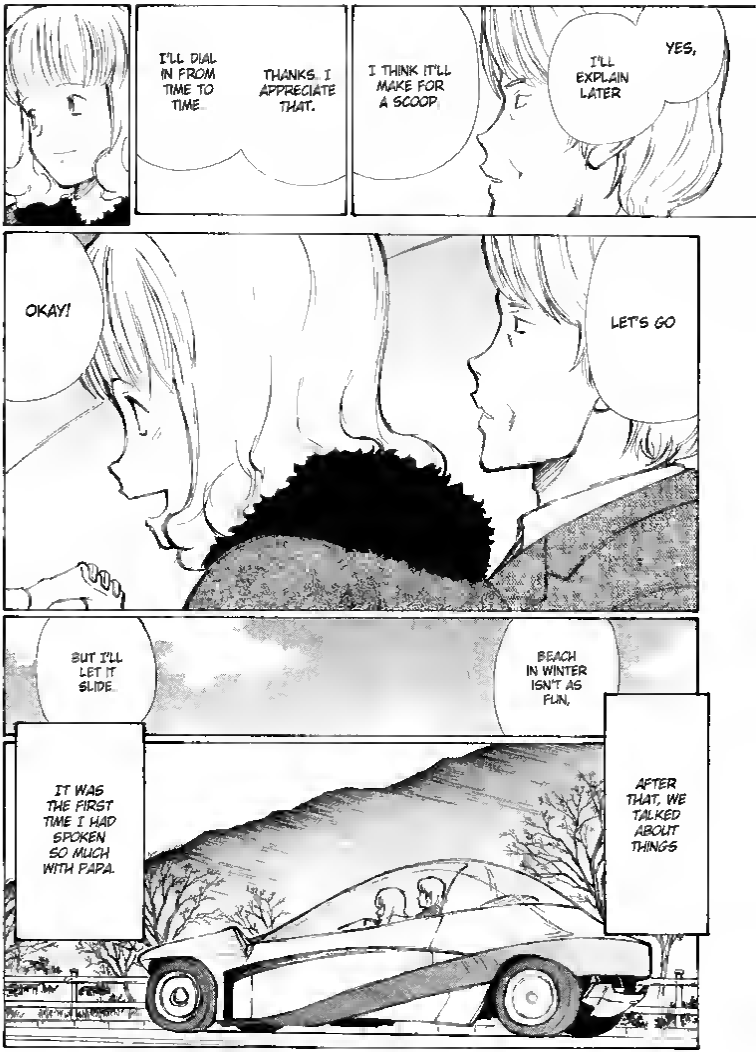

SO,
YOU REALLY ARE INVOLVED WITH ZEARTH
WHAT?
WOULD I LIE TO YOU, PAPA?
I'LL GET CHANGED.



WE'RE BEING TRAILED
DON'T WORRY, I KNOW THEM


WE'VE EVER BEEN ON A DRIVE TOGETHER?
IS THIS THE FIRST TIME
THERE ARE TOO MANY THINGS TO ASK...
WHERE SHOULD I START?
RECORD, ON.

I'D LIKE TO GO TO THE BEACH.
SINCE WE'RE DOING THIS ANYWAY,
5
I'M SORRY, I HAVE A REQUEST.
THIS IS TOKOSUMI.
I REALIZE THIS IS PUSHING IT.
CAN WE DO TODAY'S PROGRAM WITHOUT ME?
WILL THAT MAKE A GOOD EXCUSE?
OKAY. HOW ABOUT THE PLACE THE SUMMER SCHOOL WAS AT?


I'LL DIAL IN FROM TIME TO TIME.
THANKS. I APPRECIATE THAT.
I THINK IT'LL MAKE FOR A SCOOP.
YES, I'LL EXPLAIN LATER
OKAY!
LET'S GO
BUT I'LL LET IT SLIDE.
BEACH IN WINTER ISN'T AS FUN.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SPOKEN SO MUCH WITH PAPA.
AFTER THAT, WE TALKED ABOUT THINGS

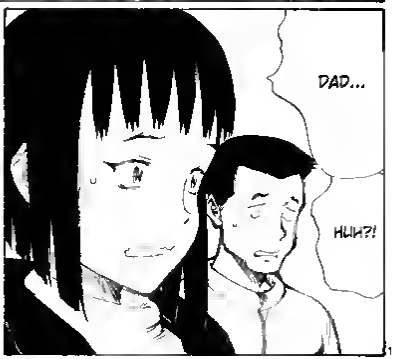
OF ME, BEFORE ANY OF THIS EVER HAPPENED
OF THE BATTLES SO FAR.
OF WHEN I MET ZEARTH
I DIDN'T CARE I WAS HAPPY.
EVEN IF IT WAS NOTHING BUT WORK FOR HIM,
I FELT LIKE I WAS TALKING TO MAKE UP FOR 13 YEARS WITHOUT HIM
BUT...
AS LONG AS I CAN MAKE A NEW, FULFILLING TIME, I'M FINE.
NOTHING I DO CAN BRING BACK THE PAST OR CHANGE WHAT WAS
I CAN'T FILL IN ALL THE TIME THAT'S GONE,
BUT WHAT'S PAST IS PAST.

THE FINAL FATE
WHAT AWAITED ME WHAT AWAITED ALL ZEARTH'S PILOTS
ONE THING I COULDN'T SAY...

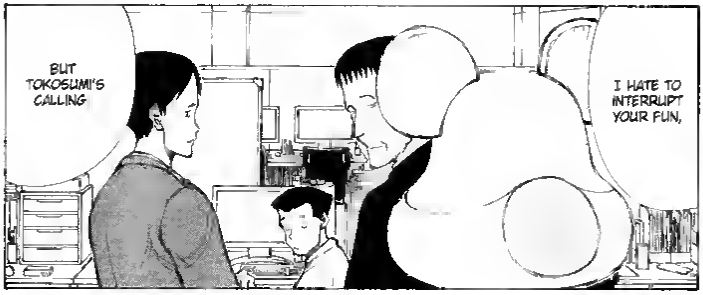
10
IT WAS A BUMMER
THERE WERE TV CREWS ALL OVER MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD
NOT IN A GOOD PLACE TO BE CALLED OUT.
WHERE'S ANKO?
HOW'S THE MEDIA STUFF GOING, MR. SASAMI?
IT WAS RIDICULOUS.
MAN, MY FRIENDS WERE POUNDING ME WITH PHONE CALLS.
AT LEAST IT'S QUIET HERE.

OH!
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT NOT WELL AT ALL.
WE'RE WORKING ON A COUNTER-PLAN.

THAT'S YOUR DAD, MACHI?


DAD...
HUH?!

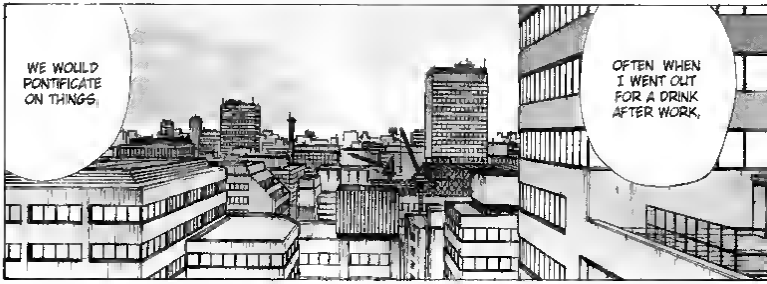
but our daughter shure did
Mom 'n I were out of sea, so we din't see it,
MY DAD'S COMPLETELY IGNORANT ABOUT HOW THIS WORKS...
THEY'RE TOTALLY LEAKING OUR PARENTS...
When she was participatin' in some summer school by the sea
It was during summer vacation
THEY'RE TRICKING HIM INTO TELLING THEM WHAT THEY WANT.
I'M SURE THE REPORTER KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.
HE'S PLAYING RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS
If you wanna ask you should ask my daughter

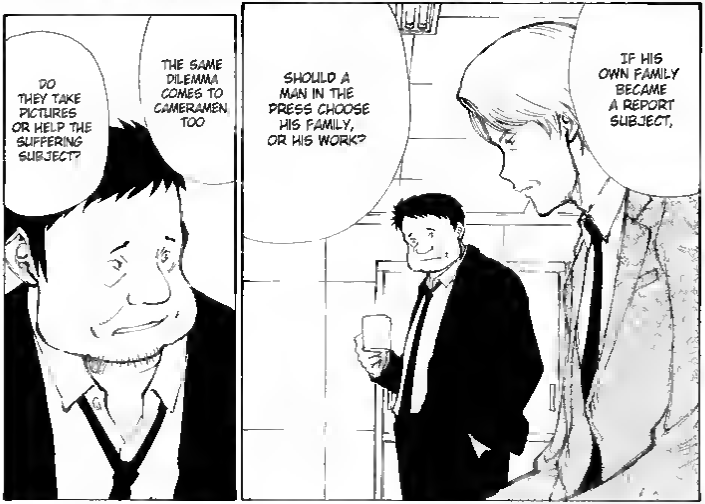

I HATE TO INTERRUPT YOUR FUN,
BUT TOKOSUMI'S CALLING

WELL GO AND SEE HER LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
IT AIN'T FOR ME
IT'S FOR YOU.
ME?

TOKOSUMI'S OLD MAN WANTS TO TALK

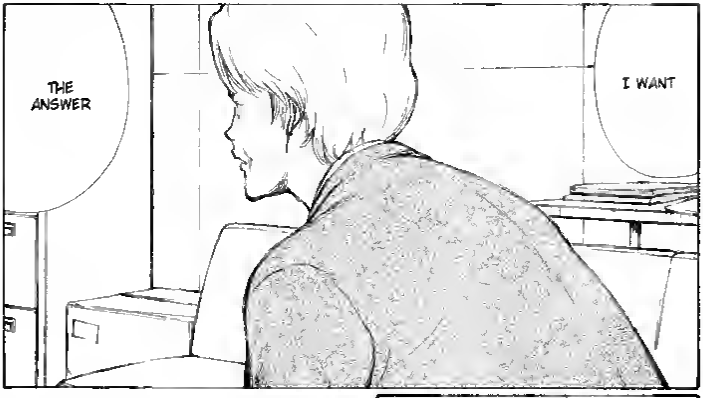
PAPA AND MR. SASAMI AGREED TO A SECRET PRESS DEAL
PAPA BECAME MR. SASAMI'S SPOKESMAN
IT WAS PROBABLY A CHOICE THAT DEFIED STANDARD JOURNALISM ETHICS
BUT,
GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE AND CIRCUM-STANCES,
PAPA MADE THAT CHOICE.
THERE ARE NO MORE SECRETS FROM PAPA.
EXCEPT FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO ME AFTER THE BATTLE


WE WOULD PONTIFICATE ON THINGS,
OFTEN WHEN I WENT OUT FOR A DRINK AFTER WORK,

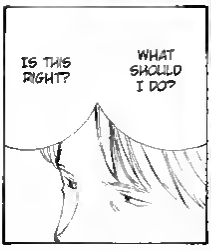

DO THEY TAKE PICTURES OR HELP THE SUFFERING SUBJECT?
THE SAME DILEMMA COMES TO CAMERAMEN, TOO
SHOULD A MAN IN THE PRESS CHOOSE HIS FAMILY, OR HIS WORK?
IF HIS OWN FAMILY BECAME A REPORT SUBJECT,

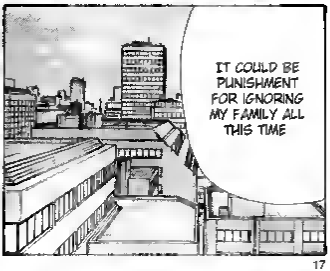
BUT NOW I AM.

WHEN I WASN'T NECESSARILY LOOKING FOR AN ANSWER,
WE'D BRING IT UP AS A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION OVER DRINKS,

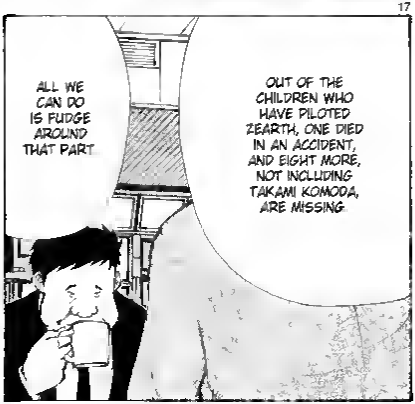

THE ANSWER
I WANT

I WOULDN'T KNOW.

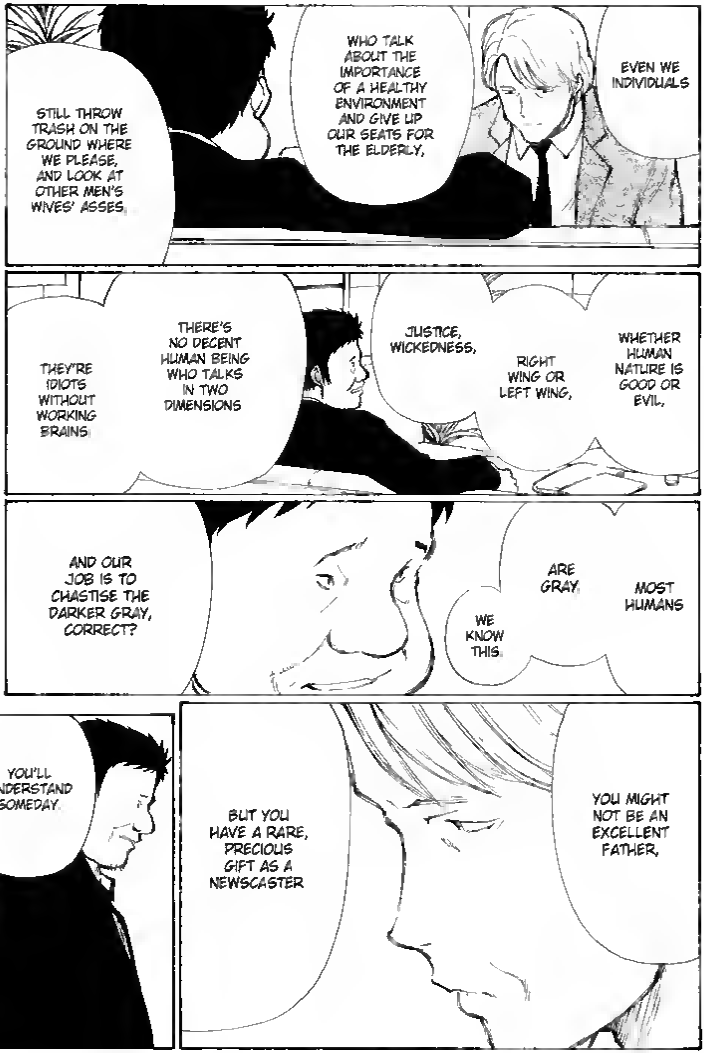

IS THIS RIGHT?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?


IT COULD BE PUNISHMENT FOR IGNORING MY FAMILY ALL THIS TIME

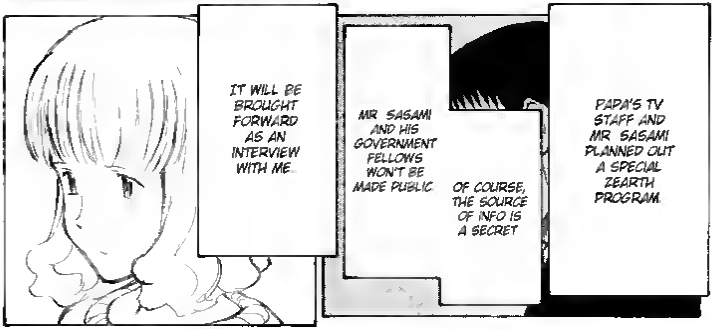
WHAT IS BEHIND IT?
WHY IS IT THAT WE CAN GET THIS FAR, BUT NOT FIND THAT?

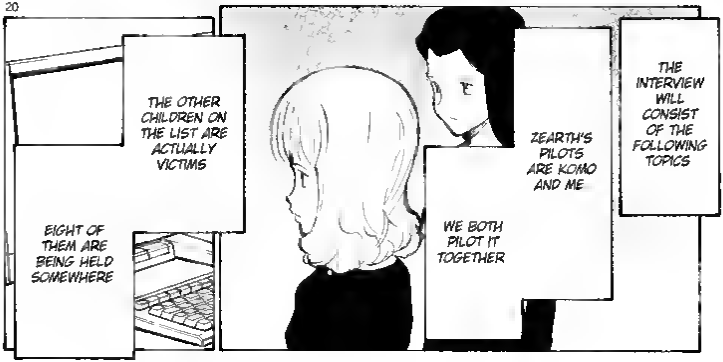

ALL WE CAN DO IS FUDGE AROUND THAT PART.
OUT OF THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE PILOTED ZEARTH, ONE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, AND EIGHT MORE, NOT INCLUDING TAKAMI KOMODA, ARE MISSING

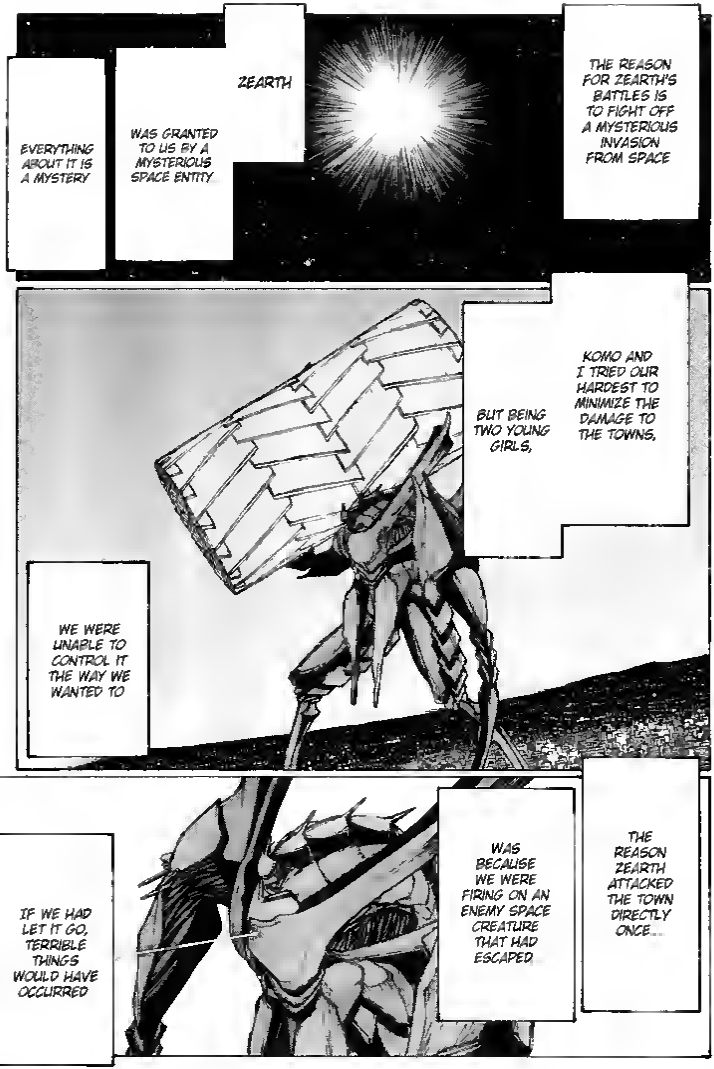
LIES ARE ALSO NECESSARY TO DISCERN THE TRUTH
WE'VE STRUCK A DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY WITH JURISDICTION OVER ZEARTH
WE'RE ACCOMPLICES
WE CAN'T ACT CARELESSLY HOW
BUT WE HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO ABANDON THE MORAL CAUSE OF DISCOVERING THAT
I BELIEVE I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL,
EVEN NOT-FOR-PROFIT
AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS
COMPANIES,
GOVERNMENT,
HOSPITALS,
THAT'S HOW THE ENTIRE WORLD WORKS
HAVE A FRONT AND REAR FACE


EVEN WE INDIVIDUALS
WHO TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND GIVE UP OUR SEATS FOR THE ELDERLY,
STILL THROW TRASH ON THE GROUND WHERE WE PLEASE, AND LOOK AT OTHER MEN'S WIVES' ASSES.
WHETHER HUMAN NATURE IS GOOD OR EVIL,
RIGHT WING OR LEFT WING,
JUSTICE, WICKEDNESS,
THERE'S NO DECENT HUMAN BEING WHO TALKS IN TWO DIMENSIONS
THEY'RE IDIOTS WITHOUT WORKING BRAINS.
MOST HUMANS ARE GRAY.
WE KNOW THIS.
AND OUR JOB IS TO CHASTISE THE DARKER GRAY, CORRECT?
YOU MIGHT NOT BE AN EXCELLENT FATHER,
BUT YOU HAVE A RARE, PRECIOUS GIFT AS A NEWSCASTER
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOMEDAY.

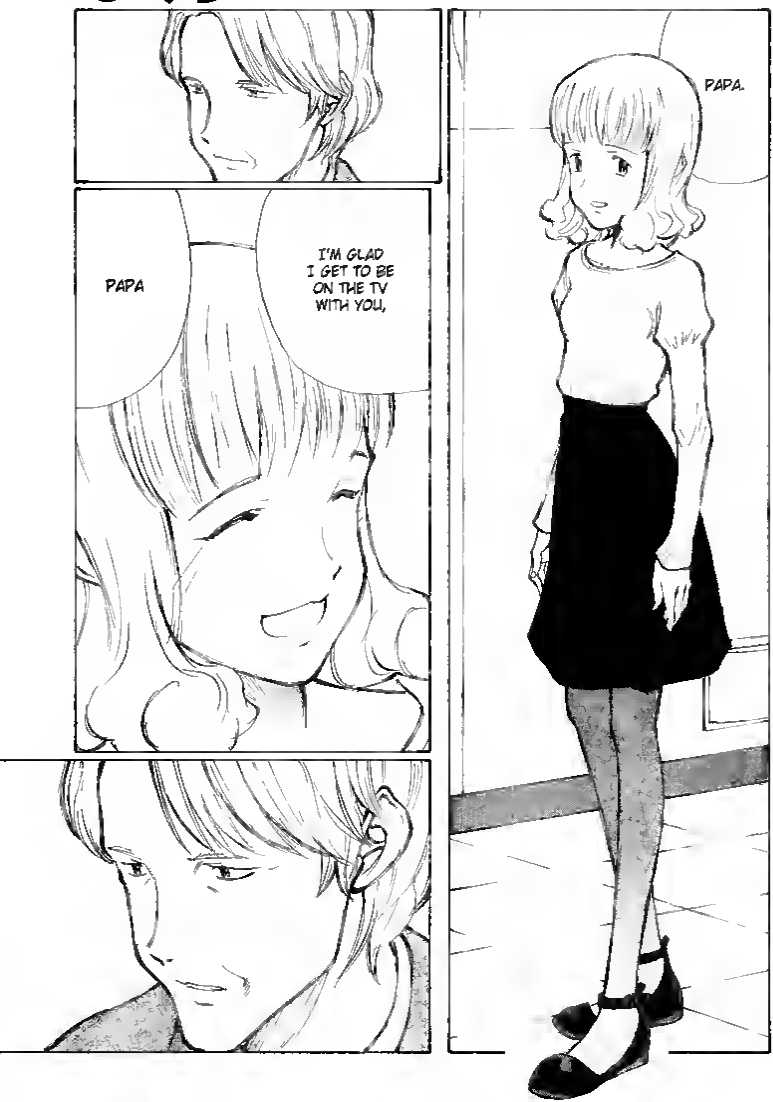
TODAY IS OUR EMERGENCY SPECIAL REPORT.
BESIDES, IT'S TOO LATE TO THINK ABOUT THIS NOW.


IT WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD AS AN INTERVIEW WITH ME.
MR. SAGAMI AND HIS GOVERNMENT FELLOWS WON'T BE MADE PUBLIC
OF COURSE, THE SOURCE OF INFO IS A SECRET
PAPA'S TV STAFF AND MR. SAGAMI PLANNED OUT A SPECIAL ZEARTH PROGRAM.


THE OTHER CHILDREN ON THE LIST ARE ACTUALLY VICTIMS
EIGHT OF THEM ARE BEING HELD SOMEWHERE
ZEARTH'S PILOTS ARE KOMO AND ME
WE BOTH PILOT IT TOGETHER
THE INTERVIEW WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

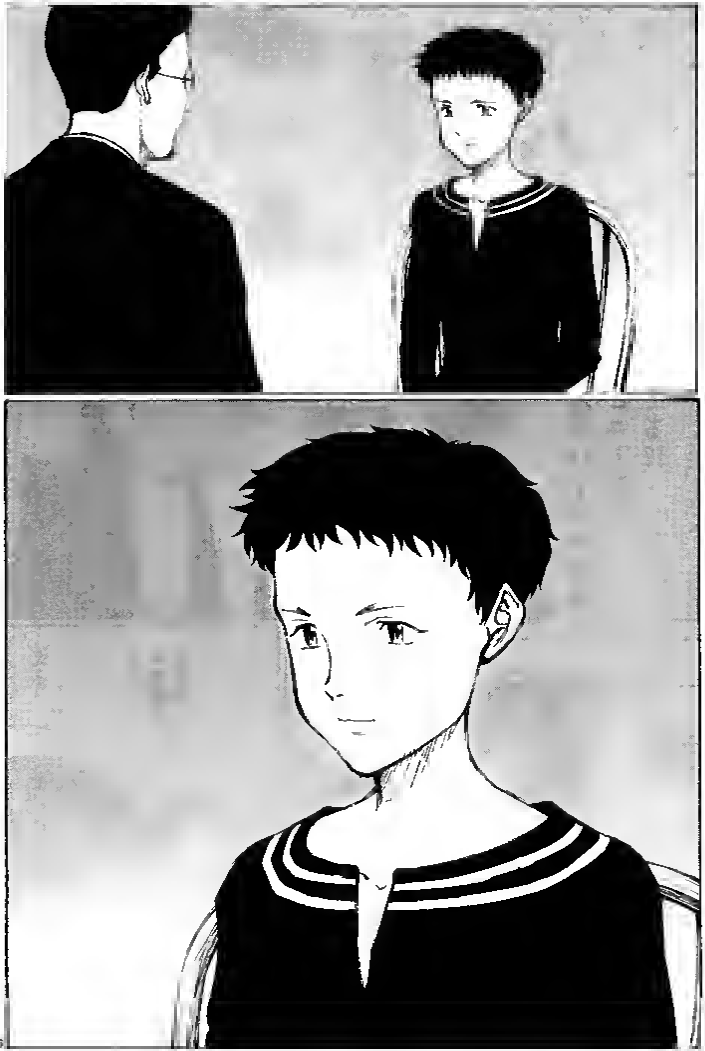

THE REASON FOR ZEARTH'S BATTLES IS TO FIGHT OFF A MYSTERIOUS INVASION FROM SPACE
ZEARTH
WAS GRANTED TO US BY A MYSTERIOUS SPACE ENTITY
EVERYTHING ABOUT IT IS A MYSTERY
KOMO AND I TRIED OUR HARDEST TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE TO THE TOWNS,
BUT BEING TWO YOUNG GIRLS,
WE WERE UNABLE TO CONTROL IT THE WAY WE WANTED TO
THE REASON ZEARTH ATTACKED THE TOWN DIRECTLY ONCE...
WAS BECAUSE WE WERE FIRING ON AN ENEMY SPACE CREATURE THAT HAD ESCAPED
IF WE HAD LET IT GO, TERRIBLE THINGS WOULD HAVE OCCURRED

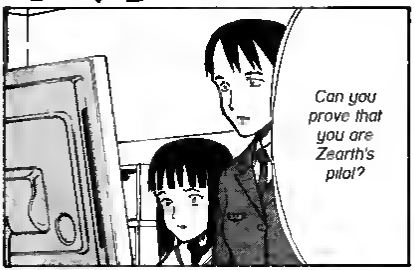
KOMO IS CURRENTLY BEING ADMINISTERED TO FOR FATIGUE,
AND NOT IN ANY KIND OF STATE TO TAKE AN INTERVIEW
YET WHEN THE NEXT BATTLE STARTS, SHE WILL STILL HAVE TO PILOT ZEARTH
BECAUSE ZEARTH RETURNS TO THE MYSTERY ENTITY ONCE A BATTLE IS OVER,
THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NO WAY TO TRANSPORT IT,
AND EVEN IF THEY DID, THEY WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING WITH IT
NOTHING THAT OTHER WORLD COUNTRIES ARE AFRAID OF WILL HAPPEN
THAT'S THE PLAN
AN UTTER MISHMASH OF TRUTH AND LIES,
BUT JUST HAVING AN INTERVIEW WITH ME IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE IT WORTH REPORTING FOR PAPA'S GROUP

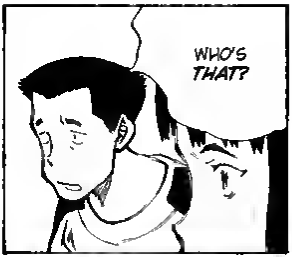

PAPA.
I'M GLAD I GET TO BE ON THE TV WITH YOU,
PAPA

IT PROBABLY WON'T BE ANYTHING MORE THAN A TEMPORARY FIX,
AND THIS IS GOING TO WORK?
24
I THINK IT'S KIND OF CRUEL AND IRONIC THAT WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR LIVES SO THAT WE CAN DIE
NOTHING WE SAY NOW WILL GET THEIR FULL TRUST.
BUT IT'S UNAVOIDABLE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
DON'T MIND THAT. IN FACT, DON'T EVEN BRING IT UP.
BE CAREFUL OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS, KIDS.
I THINK WE'LL BE FINE BETWEEN OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE STAFF AND DUNG BEETLE, HOWEVER.
IT'S LIKE ALL WE NEED TO DO IS RIDE IT OUT THROUGH THE FINAL BATTLE.

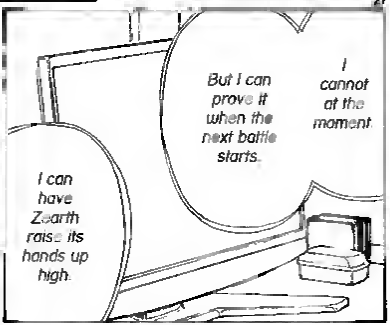
HUH?
PARDON?
ABOUT THAT MR. TOKOSUMI'S BROADCAST SHOULD...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOT SOME WEIRDOS FOLLOWING ME AROUND, TOO.
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SKIP SCHOOL TOMORROW...
WHAT ?!
THEY'RE BROADCASTING AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PILOT?!
HUH ...?
ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE FOUR HOURS FROM NOW?

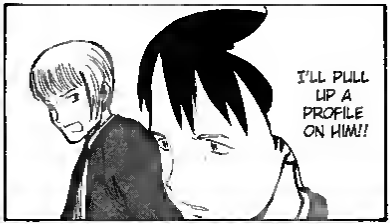


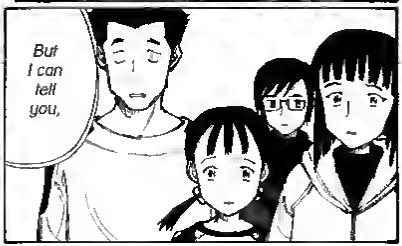

Can you prove that you are Zearth's pilot?

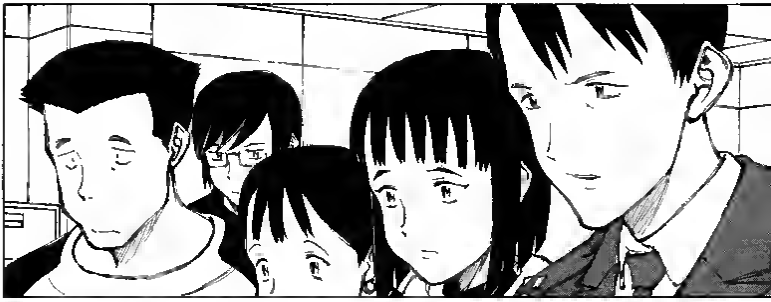

WHO'S THAT?

I am indeed Zearth's pilot


I cannot at the moment
But I can prove it when the next battle starts.
I can have Zearth raise its hands up high.


I'LL PULL UP A PROFILE ON HIM!!


But I can tell you,



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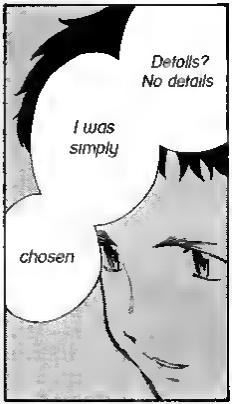
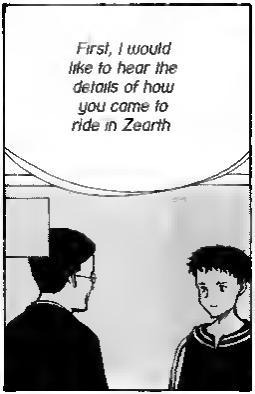
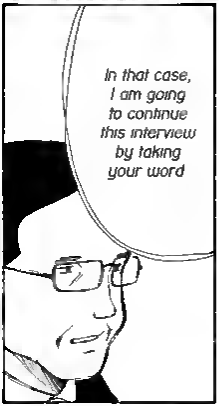
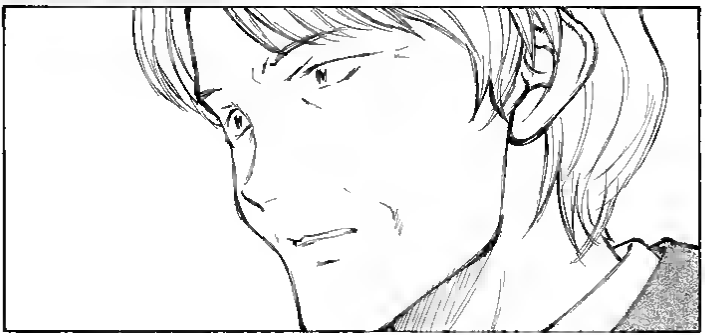

Details? No details
I was simply
chosen


First, I would like to hear the details of how you came to ride in Zearth


In that case, I am going to continue this interview by taking your word



THAT DOESN'T MATTER
BUT HE'S A FAKE
THEY BEAT US TO THE PUNCH!!
GOD-DAMNIT !!
DOESN'T THAT SOUND MORE FISHY THAN THIS GUY?
AND OUR SCOOP IS THE NEWSCASTER'S OWN DAUGHTER.
WHOEVER SPEAKS FIRST, WINS
NOBODY ELSE CAN PROVE WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT
DELIVER OUR SCOOP.
WE CAN NO LONGER

8TH GRADE.
JUNJI KARITA.
HE'S JUST MAKING UP A BUNCH OF CRAP.
ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION TO THE NATURE SCHOOL WHATSOEVER
30
BUT AT LEAST HE'S SAYING THAT EVERYONE ELSE ASIDE FROM MISS KOMODA IS UNRELATED.
I'M SURE MR. SASAMI HAS HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS IN THE OTHER ROOM.
HOW JAPAN CONTROLS A BUNCH OF OTHER ROBOTS, TOO...
HOW WE'LL USE ZEARTH TO CONQUER OTHER COUNTRIES,
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD KNOW OUR INFO, THAT'S WHY

RIGHT OFF THE AIR!!
HE JUST KNOCKED MY SHOW
I HATE THIS GUY!!
WHOA
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE FAMOUS SO BADLY?!
MAKING UP ALL THOSE LIES!
CHILL OUT, ANKO
I'LL KILL HIM!!
TO WATCH HIM ON TV!!
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED

CHAPTER 39/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

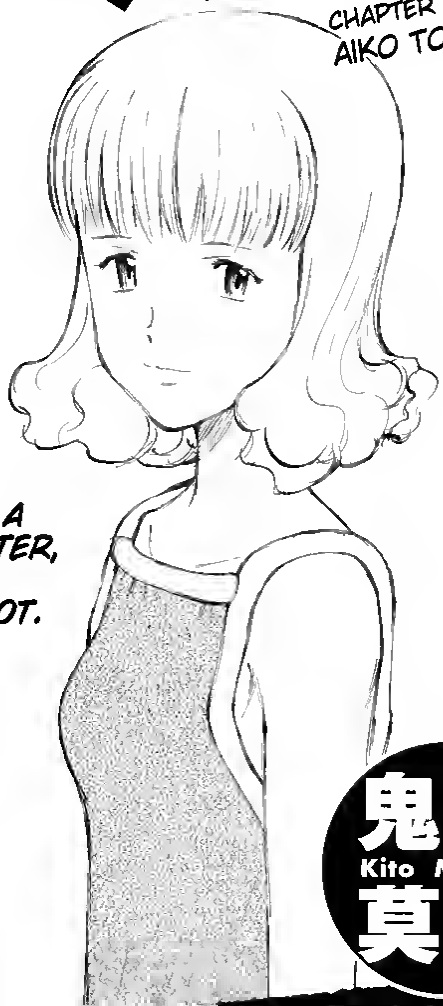
Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

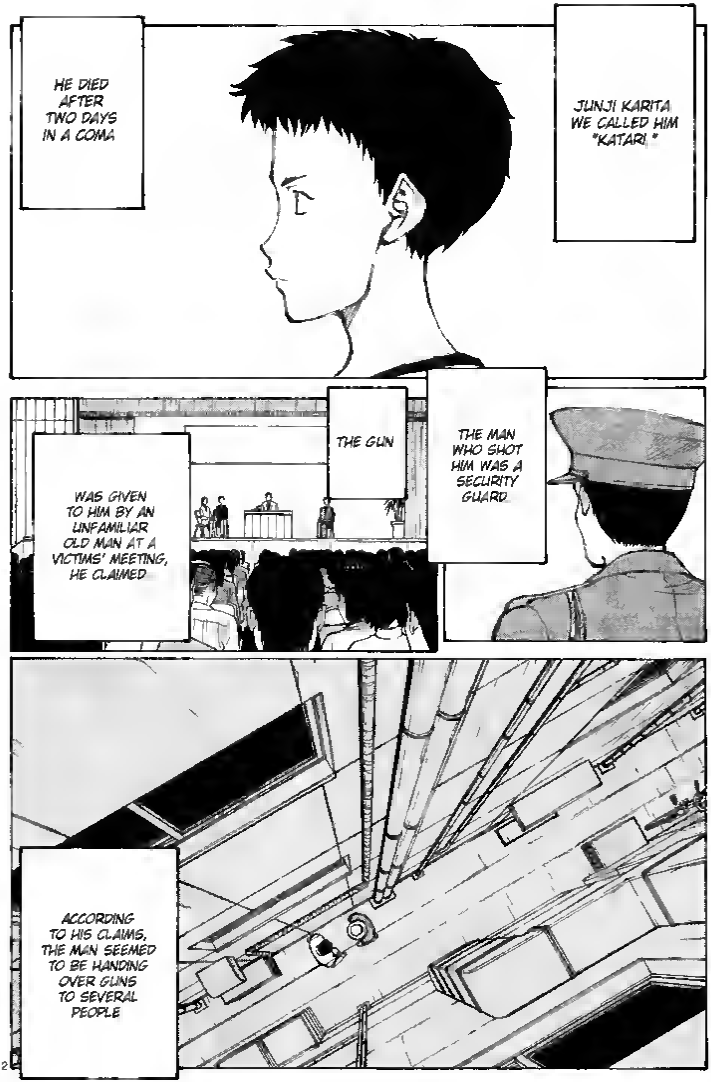
CHAPTER 40
AIKO TOKOSUMI (3)



PAPA IS A NEWSCASTER,

I'M A PILOT.

鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro


HE DIED AFTER TWO DAYS IN A COMA
JUNJI KARITA WE CALLED HIM "KATARI."
THE GUN
WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY AN UNFAMILIAR OLD MAN AT A VICTIMS' MEETING, HE CLAIMED
THE MAN WHO SHOT HIM WAS A SECURITY GUARD
ACCORDING TO HIS CLAIMS, THE MAN SEEMED TO BE HANDING OVER GUNS TO SEVERAL PEOPLE

WE WERE HATED BY OTHERS
BUT WE KNEW THAT ALREADY
KOMO'S HOUSE WAS SET ON FIRE
I'M SURE THEY WERE ALL IN CONFUSION ONCE THE BOY STEPPED FORWARD
AREN'T THE SECURITY COMPANY OR TV STATION DOING ANY BACKGROUND CHECKS?
THIS IS RIDICULOUS
WE'RE NOT HEROES

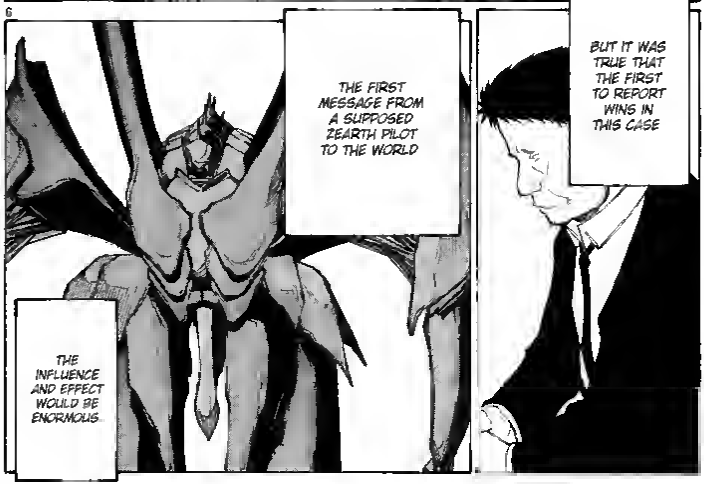
OUR SITUATION CHANGED.
NO OUTSIDE TRIPS.
NO MORE SCHOOL, OF COURSE
FINE WITH ME. I'VE BEEN TO ENOUGH SCHOOL IN MY LIFE.
ALL KINDS OF CRAZY THREATENING LETTERS AND THINGS ARE BEING SENT TO MY HOUSE AND PAPA'S TV STATION
I'M SENT EVERYWHERE BY DUNG BEETLE'S TELEPORTATION.
KATARI HELPED IN EASING THE MISTRUST SOCIETY FELT TOWARD US, BUT WE ARE STILL NOT CONSIDERED INNOCENT

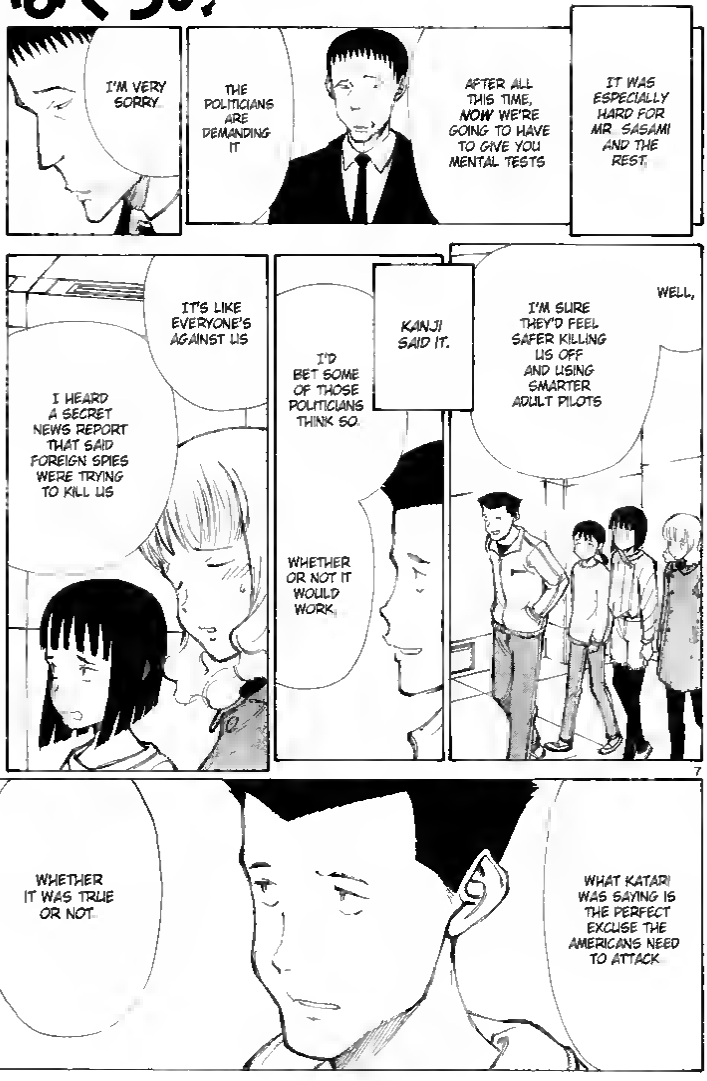
KANJI, USHIRO, MACHI...
OUR PARENTS HAVE ALL BEEN CALLED IN
GIVEN A CURSORY EXPLANATION THAT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORY
FROM THIS POINT ON, THE KIDS WILL BE KEPT IN A MILITARY FACILITY.
IF POSSIBLE, THE PARENTS SHOULD LEAVE THEIR HOUSES TOO
IF WE WISHED IT, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE WHATEVER HELP IT COULD
EVERYONE'S PARENTS WERE CALLED SEPARATELY,
SO THEY NEVER MET EACH OTHER.
I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN EVERYONE ELSE'S MOM AND DAD, THOUGH
I GUESS NOT.

THOSE WHO BELIEVED AND THOSE WHO DIDN'T

KATARI'S COMMENTS WERE TAKEN IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.

IT'S A SICKENING THING TO DO
THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING WHEN THEY PUT HIS FACE OUT.
AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY BROADCAST IT KNOWING THEY WERE LIES.


THE FIRST MESSAGE FROM A SUPPOSED ZEARTH PILOT TO THE WORLD
THE INFLUENCE AND EFFECT WOULD BE ENORMOUS.
BUT IT WAS TRUE THAT THE FIRST TO REPORT WINS IN THIS CASE


I'M VERY SORRY.
THE POLITICIANS ARE DEMANDING IT
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, NOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE YOU MENTAL TESTS
IT WAS ESPECIALLY HARD FOR MR. SASAMI AND THE REST.
IT'S LIKE EVERYONE'S AGAINST US
I HEARD A SECRET NEWS REPORT THAT SAID FOREIGN SPIES WERE TRYING TO KILL US
KANJI SAID IT.
I'D BET SOME OF THOSE POLITICIANS THINK SO.
WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD WORK.
WELL,
I'M SURE THEY'D FEEL SAFER KILLING US OFF AND USING SMARTER ADULT PILOTS
WHETHER IT WAS TRUE OR NOT
WHAT KATARI WAS SAYING IS THE PERFECT EXCUSE THE AMERICANS NEED TO ATTACK.

I HAVE AN IDEA.
INSIDE ZEARTH'S COCKPIT.
LET US PUT A TV CAMERA
DURING THE NEXT BATTLE

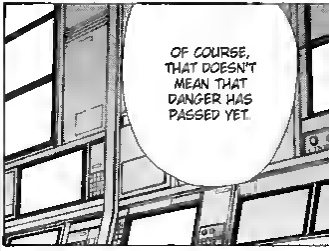
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
IT MUST BE REAL
IF WE HAVE A CAMERA IN ZEARTH'S COCKPIT,
WE CAN'T CONVINCE ANYONE WITH WORDS AT THE MOMENT.
BUT,

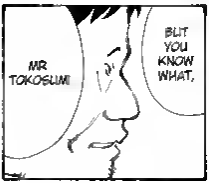
I'LL LOOK INTO IT.
IT SEEMS THAT'S OUR ONLY CHOICE

THEY'VE GIVEN US TERMS.
ONLY YOU AND TWO CAMERAMEN WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE COCKPIT. THEY CHOOSE WHO
ONE PERSON FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE WILL ACCOMPANY YOU AS ADVISOR
THEY'LL ACTUALLY BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU
THERE ARE LIMITS ON THE SHOOTING AS WELL
YOU'LL BE TAKEN FROM THE COCKPIT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BATTLE,
AND THE TIMING WILL BE AT THE ADVISOR'S DISCRETION.
NO INTERVIEWS WITH THE PILOT.
WHAT I'M WONDERING ABOUT IS THE IMMEDIATE EJECTION FROM THE COCKPIT.
IS THAT TO PROTECT THE PILOT?

IN THAT WAY I MIGHT INDIRECTLY HELP MY FAMILY.
I AGREED ON THIS JOB BECAUSE I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE THE WORLD BETTER.
SO,
WE HAVE ROUNDABOUT WAYS OF EXPRESSING LOVE
WELL, JAPANESE MEN HAVE A TENDENCY TO DO THAT.
OH REALLY?
THINKING BACK ON IT, MY LOGIC WAS CRAZY.
IT WAS NECESSARY TO FORCE MY FAMILY AWAY A BIT
11
I WASN'T READY FOR THIS.
IF WE HAD GONE AHEAD WITH THAT SEGMENT,
IT COULD HAVE BEEN AIKO WHO DIED
FROM THIS ASSIGNMENT?
CAN I STEP DOWN

I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF MY WORK,
CAUSING THE DEATH OF MY OWN DAUGHTER.


OF COURSE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT DANGER HAS PASSED YET.

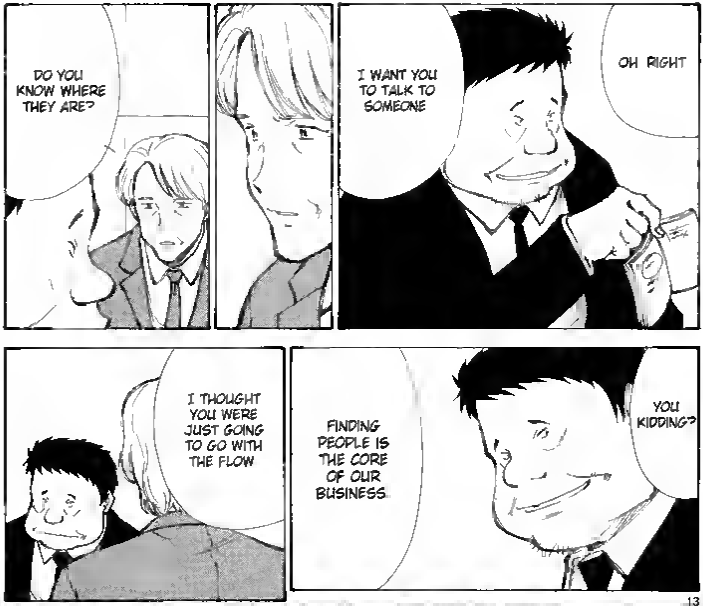

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT,
MR TOKOSUMI

ALL RIGHT.
WE'LL PUT A HOLD ON IT FOR NOW.

WAIT A SEC,
YOU WANT OUT NOW? NOW?

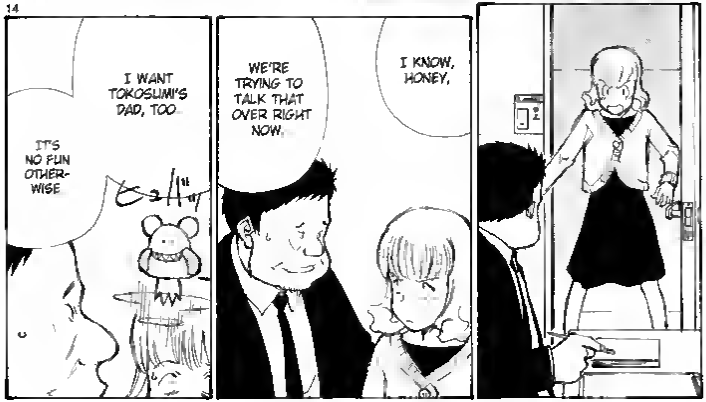
DON'T FORGET THAT.

TO MAKE YOU FINALLY FACE YOUR DAUGHTER
IT TOOK YOUR OWN WORK


DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?
I WANT YOU TO TALK TO SOMEONE
OH RIGHT
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST GOING TO GO WITH THE FLOW
FINDING PEOPLE IS THE CORE OF OUR BUSINESS
YOU KIDDING?

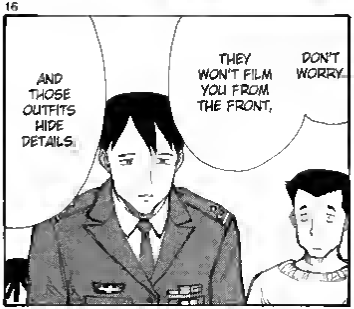
REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THAT?
THERE S A FRONT AND A REAR FACE TO EVERYTHING

NO! IF IT'S NOT PAPA,
THEN I DON'T WANT TO DO IT!!


I KNOW, HONEY,
WE'RE TRYING TO TALK THAT OVER RIGHT NOW.
I WANT TOKOSUMI'S DAD, TOO.
IT'S NO FUN OTHER-WISE.

THIS IS MR. DUNG BEETLE, WHO WILL BE TELEPORTING YOU TO THE COCKPIT
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE.
ERR,
SO STAY ON MY GOOD SIDE, OR I WON'T TAKE YOU.
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU TO A COCKPIT JUST LIKE THE ONE ZEARTH USES.
EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE.
TELE-PORTING?
NOW,
ABOUT THE RIDERS AND THE CAMERA...
OR MAYBE I JUST WON'T LET YOU OUT OF THE COCKPIT
HEH HEH HEH

ME?
HUH?

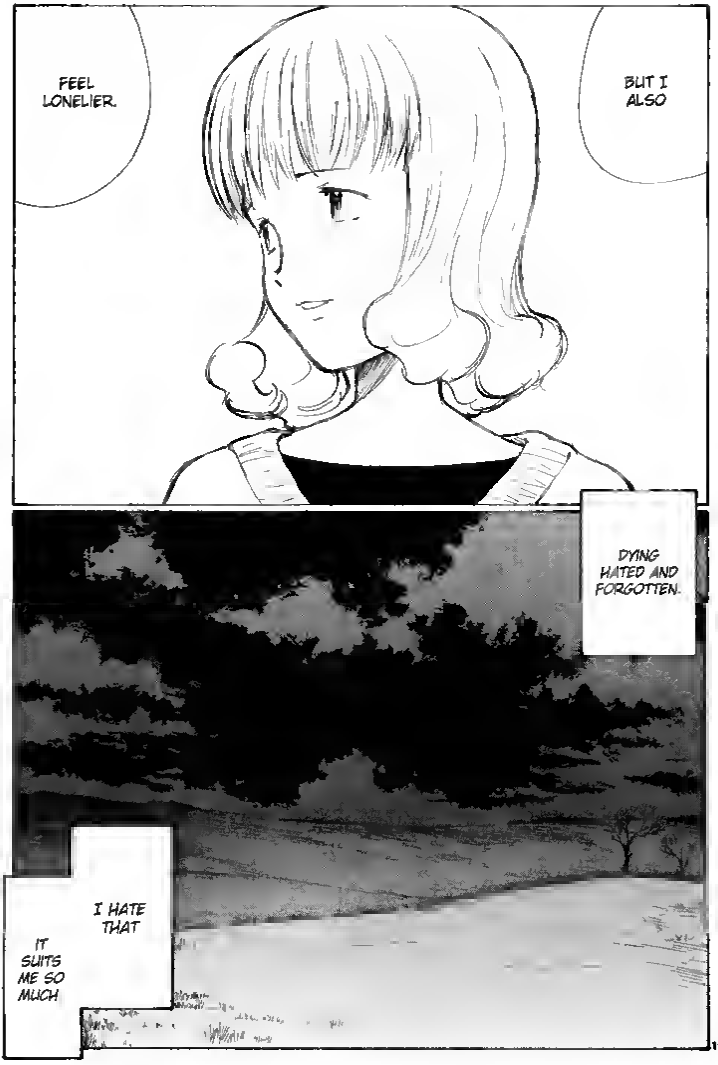

AND THOSE OUTFITS HIDE DETAILS.
THEY WON'T FILM YOU FROM THE FRONT,
DON'T WORRY.

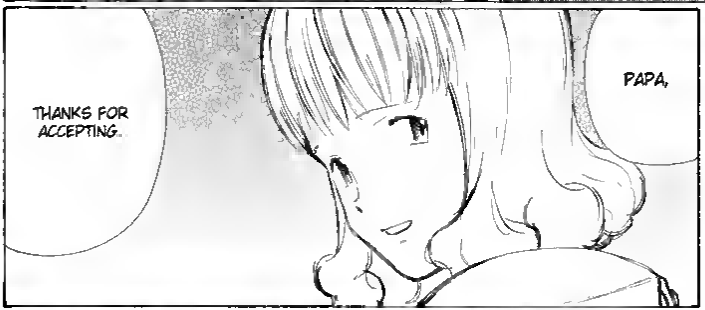
EVERYONE ELSE, STAY BEHIND THE CAMERA AND DON'T LET YOURSELVES MOVE INTO ITS PATH.

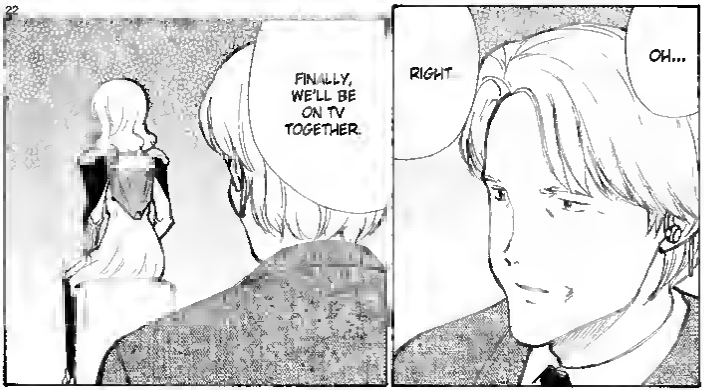
BUT I'M NOT THE RIGHT SIZE, AM I...?
I HAVE TO PLAY KOMO'S PART...?

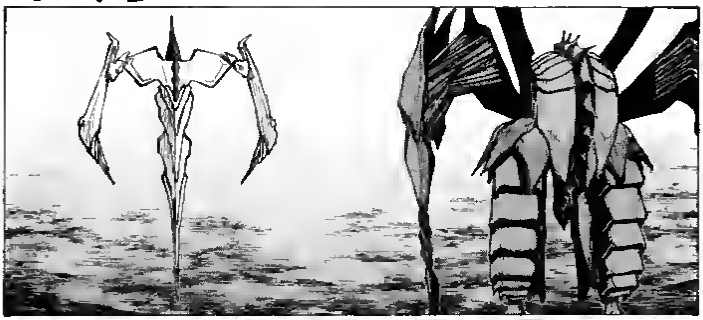
IT'LL BE TOKOSUMI, KOMODA, AND KARITA. THOSE THREE
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZEARTH'S PILOTS?
FORTUNATELY FOR US, WITH KARITA'S PRESENCE, THE SUMMER SCHOOL ANGLE BECOMES UNIMPORTANT.
ALTHOUGH I FEEL BAD FOR HIS FAMILY
IT'S AN ODD REQUEST TO MAKE OF YOU, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL DO IT, MACHI
Y... YEAH
SO, HOW IS IT, LIVING HERE?
SORRY TO HOLE YOU UP IN THIS TRAINING RANGE UP NORTH
BUT AT LEAST WE DON'T GET SNOW AT THIS ONE

IS A LOT LESS THAN IT USED TO BE.
OF COURSE, "ALL OF US"
WITH ALL OF US SLEEPING TOGETHER.
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL,
THIS IS GOING TO BE MY BATTLEFIELD.
THAT IT'S NOT IN A TOWN
I FEEL BETTER

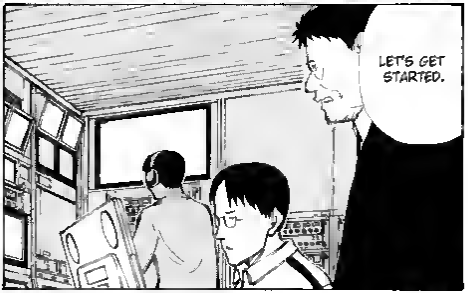

FEEL LONELIER.
BUT I ALSO
DYING HATED AND FORGOTTEN.
I HATE THAT IT SUITS ME SO MUCH


PAPA,
THANKS FOR ACCEPTING.

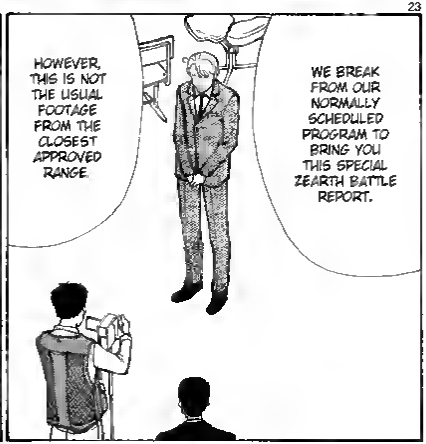

FINALLY, WE'LL BE ON TV TOGETHER.
RIGHT.
OH...



JUST KEEP REPORTING AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE
YOU WON'T BE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE STUDIO.

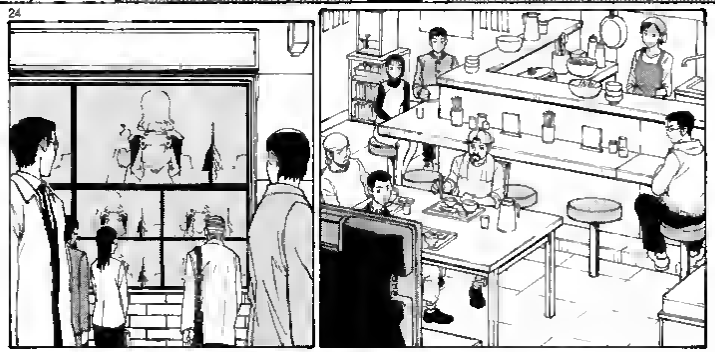

LET'S GET STARTED.

WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO SEND YOU THIS FOOTAGE FROM A MOST STARTLING PLACE
AS THE RESULT OF SPECIAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT,


HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THE USUAL FOOTAGE FROM THE CLOSEST APPROVED RANGE.
WE BREAK FROM OUR NORMALLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM TO BRING YOU THIS SPECIAL ZEARTH BATTLE REPORT.

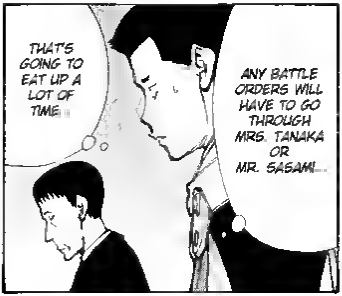
BATTLE ROOM.
THIS IS ZEARTH'S

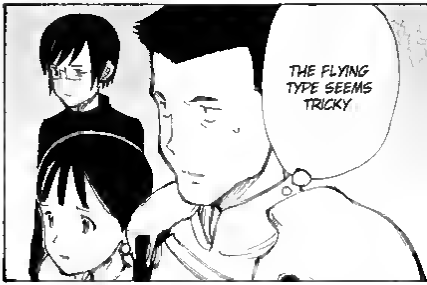
25
YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT THEY'RE SHOWING!
EVERYONE, STOP WORKING! C'MERE!

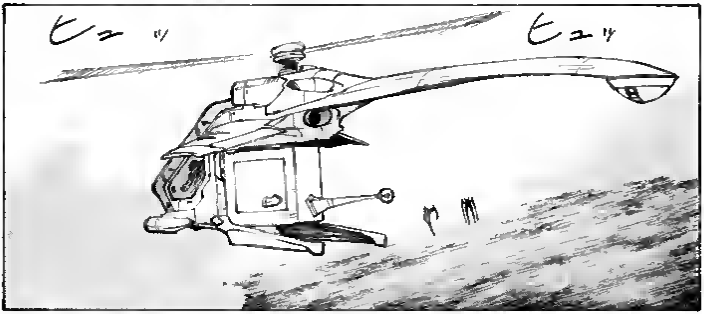

24

At present
Zearth is guiding the enemy monster to the Self Defense Force's Yausubetsu training range
WE'RE BROAD-CASTING
TO THE WORLD.

HERE I GO.
ドス


THAT'S GOING TO EAT UP A LOT OF TIME...
ANY BATTLE ORDERS WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH MRS. TANAKA OR MR. SASAMI...


THE FLYING TYPE SEEMS TRICKY.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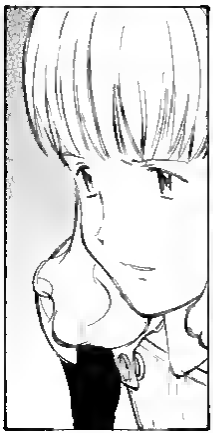
ヒュッ



YEAH, THAT'S WHAT WE NEED
WE'VE GOT FOOTAGE FROM THE ARMY.

IT DIS-
APPEARED
?!
AHA!!
IT MOVES
REALLY
FAST!!
WHERE
IS IT?!

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オオオオ
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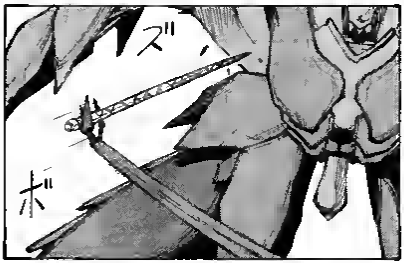
TAKE THIS !!
A SHOCK-WAVE'S COMING!!
STAY BACK!!
ヒ"
ヒ"
ヒ"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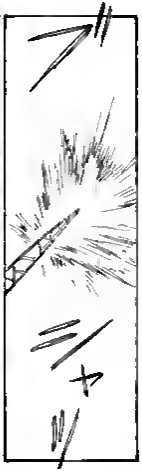
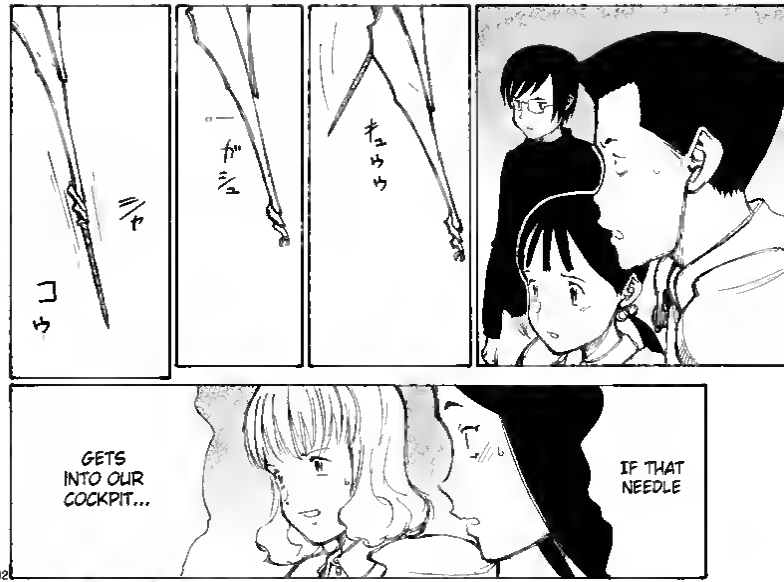
THAT'S SUCH AN IMPRECISE WAY TO DO IT..
A NEEDLE? IT FIGHTS BY SKEWERING THE COCKPIT WITH THAT THING?

ZEARTH
IS MELTING?!

ジュア





CHAPTER 40/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

CHAPTER 41
AIKO TOKOSUMI (4)

鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro

I LIKE THEIR STYLE
I GUESS THAT WAY THERE'S NO NEED TO GET THE NEEDLE DIRECTLY INTO THE COCKPIT
A SOLVENT?
?
IT'S COMING!!

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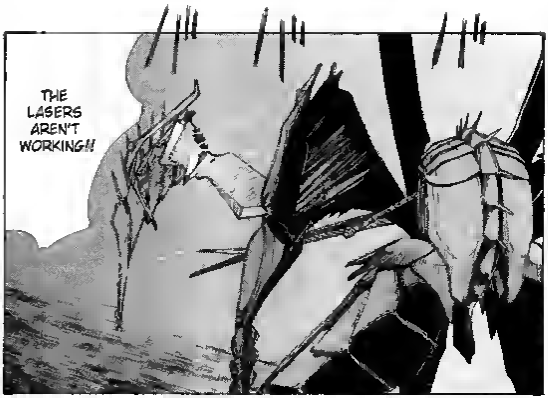
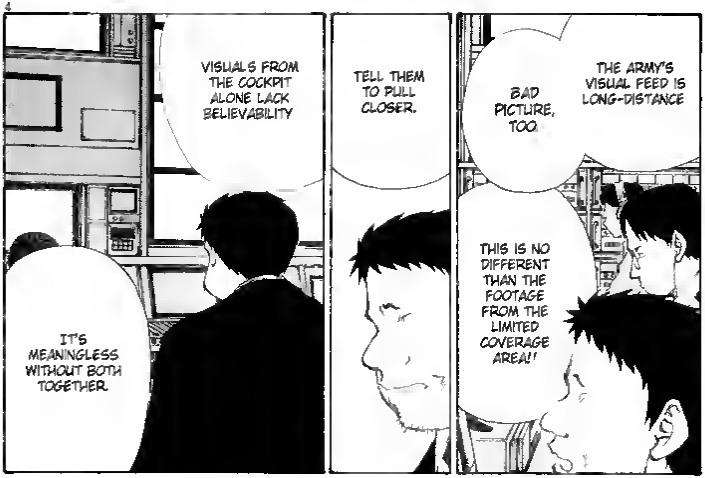

THE LASERS AREN'T WORKING!!

WHY YOU-!!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?!


VISUALS FROM THE COCKPIT ALONE LACK BELIEVABILITY
IT'S MEANINGLESS WITHOUT BOTH TOGETHER.
TELL THEM TO PULL CLOSER.
THE ARMY'S VISUAL FEED IS LONG-DISTANCE
BAD PICTURE, TOO.
THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE FOOTAGE FROM THE LIMITED COVERAGE AREA!!

GET CLOSER!!
ORDERS FROM COMMAND HQ!!
THEY WANT US TO DIE?
ズ"
ボ"
KOMO!!
MA...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
I... I DON'T KNOW...
ジュウ

ZEARTH'S COCKPIT IS PROTECTED BY SEVERAL LAYERS OF ARMOR, AND OPERATES ON A FLOATING SYSTEM,
SO THE TREMORS AND VIBRATIONS OF THE BATTLE DO NOT REACH US.
THE BATTLE BETWEEN ZEARTH AND THE INVADING MONSTER HAS BEGUN.
キュハ
ドカ

オオオオ
THAT ONE GOT PRETTY CLOSE TO THE COCKPIT!!
EEK!!
7
TAKE THIS!!
HUH?!
WHERE IS IT?!
NOT AGAIN!!
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WHY YOU-!!

ARE YOU TEASING ME?!
W... WHY YOU-!

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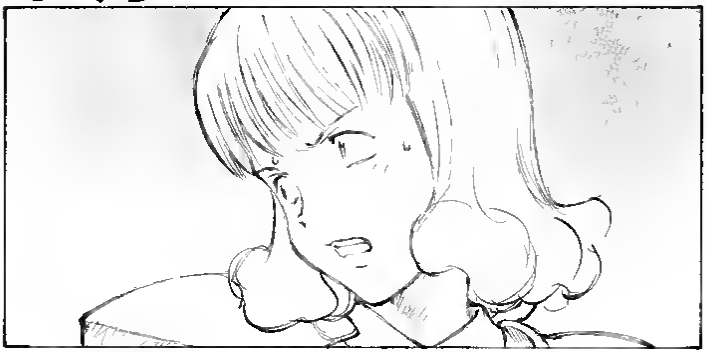
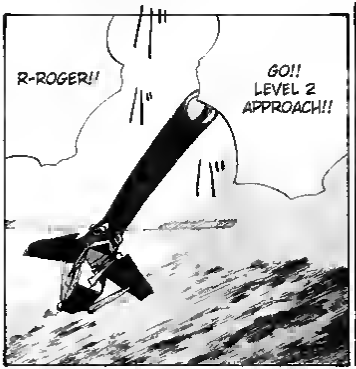
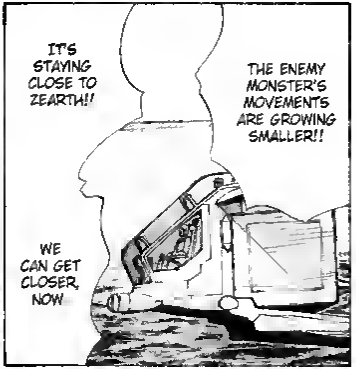
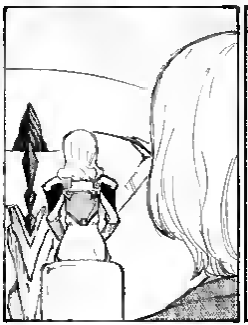


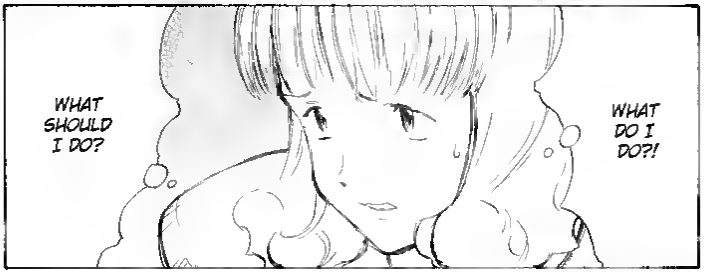

R-ROGER!!
GO!! LEVEL 2 APPROACH!!

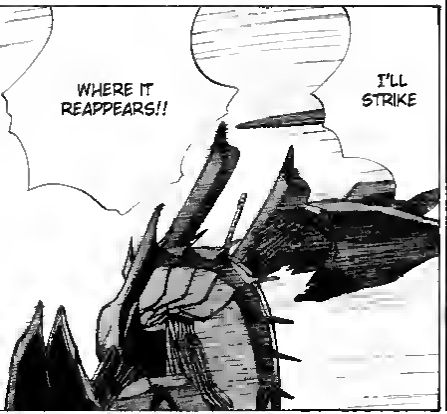

IT'S STAYING CLOSE TO ZEARTH!!
THE ENEMY MONSTER'S MOVEMENTS ARE GROWING SMALLER!!
WE CAN GET CLOSER, NOW.

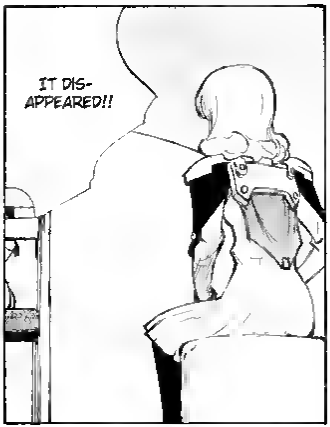


I'M BROADCASTING TO YOU FROM ZEARTH'S BATTLE ROOM
WE CONTINUE OUR LIVE FOOTAGE OF THE BATTLE.
NARRATER! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING!!
MR TOKOSUMI!
ZEARTH IS CURRENTLY IN BATTLE WITH THE ENEMY MONSTER.
12
CAN YOU SEE THAT FROM THE ARMY HELICOPTER FOOTAGE?
ZEARTH HAS TAKEN FOUR ATTACKS FROM THIS ENEMY ALREADY
THESE NAILS APPEAR TO BE FILLED WITH AN ACIDIC LIQUID THAT IS BEING USED TO DAMAGE ZEARTH
THE ENEMY IS ATTACKING WITH NAIL-LIKE OBJECTS UP TO 100 METERS LONG.

THE ENEMY MONSTER MOVES VERY FAST. ZEARTH SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO CONTAIN OR CATCH IT.


WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT DO I DO?!


WHERE IT REAPPEARS!!
I'LL STRIKE


IT DIS-APPEARED!!

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14
DAMN IT!!
IT'S ABOVE US!!
ABOVE?!

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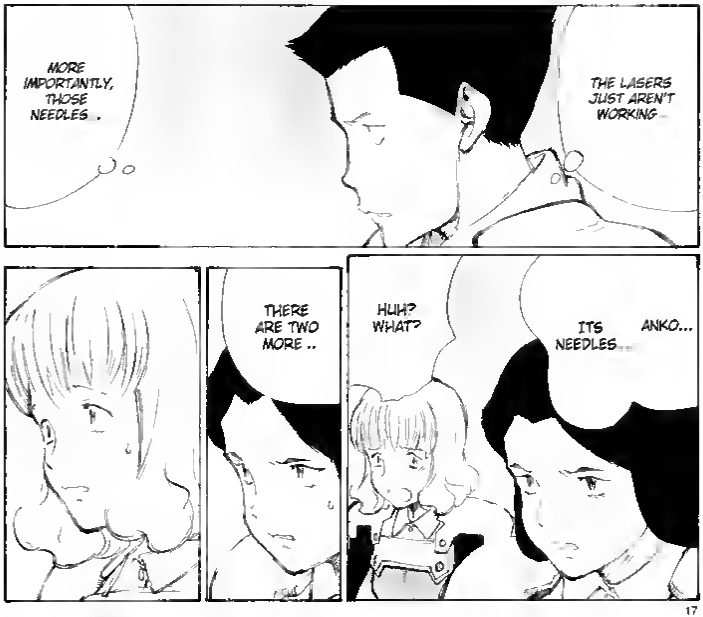
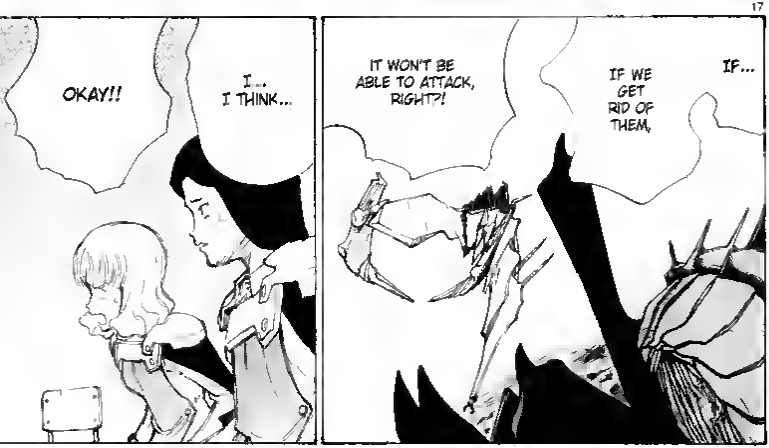
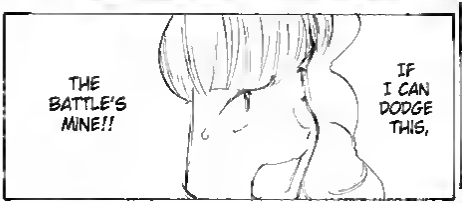
TAKE THIS!!


MORE IMPORTANTLY, THOSE NEEDLES..
THE LASERS JUST AREN'T WORKING..
THERE ARE TWO MORE..
HUH? WHAT?
ITS NEEDLES...
ANKO...

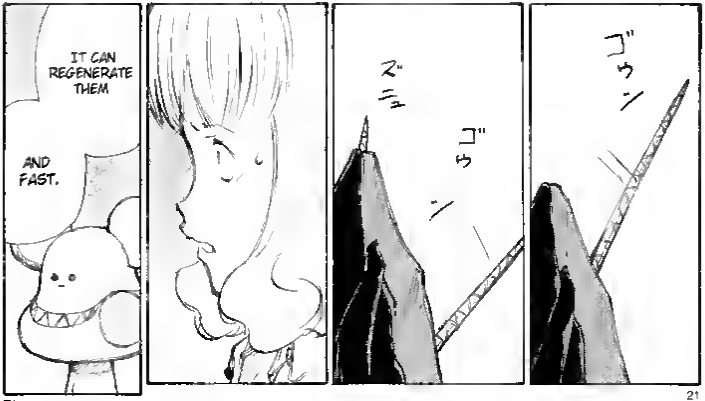

OKAY!!
I... I THINK...
IT WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTACK, RIGHT?!
IF WE GET RID OF THEM,
IF...

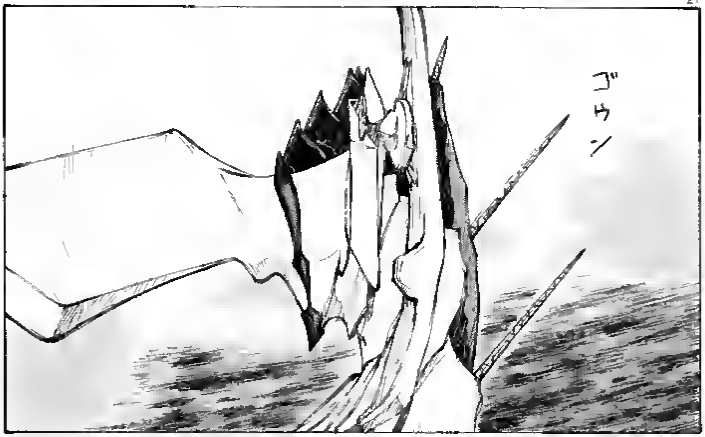
DANCE STEPS!!
I'LL DODGE WITH MY GRACEFUL
ナオン
ONE MORE!!

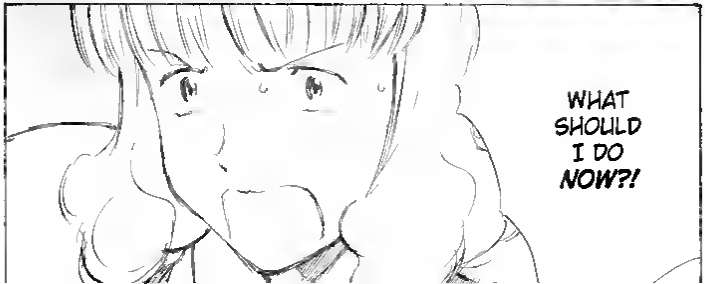

THE BATTLE'S MINE!!
IF I CAN DODGE THIS,

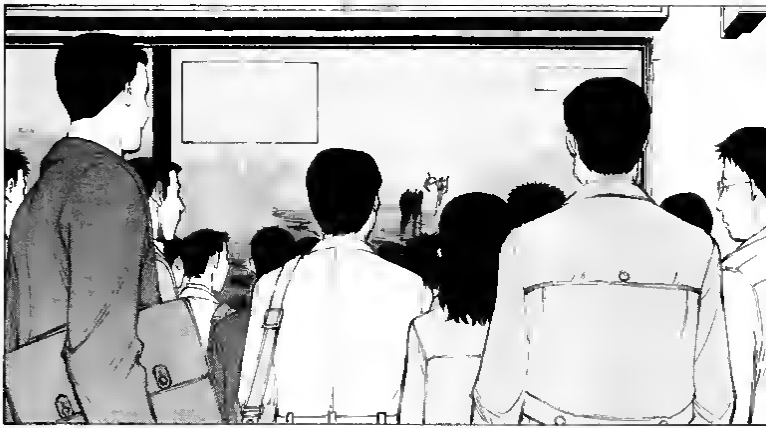
ブン
ブン

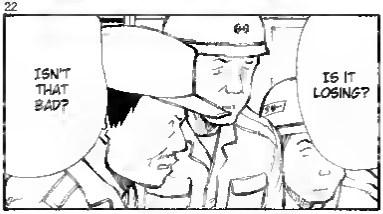
NOW
I CAN...
YES!!
GOOD
ONE


IT CAN REGENERATE THEM
AND FAST.
ゴゥン
ズチュ
ゴゥン


ゴゥン


WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?!




ISN'T THAT BAD?
IS IT LOSING?

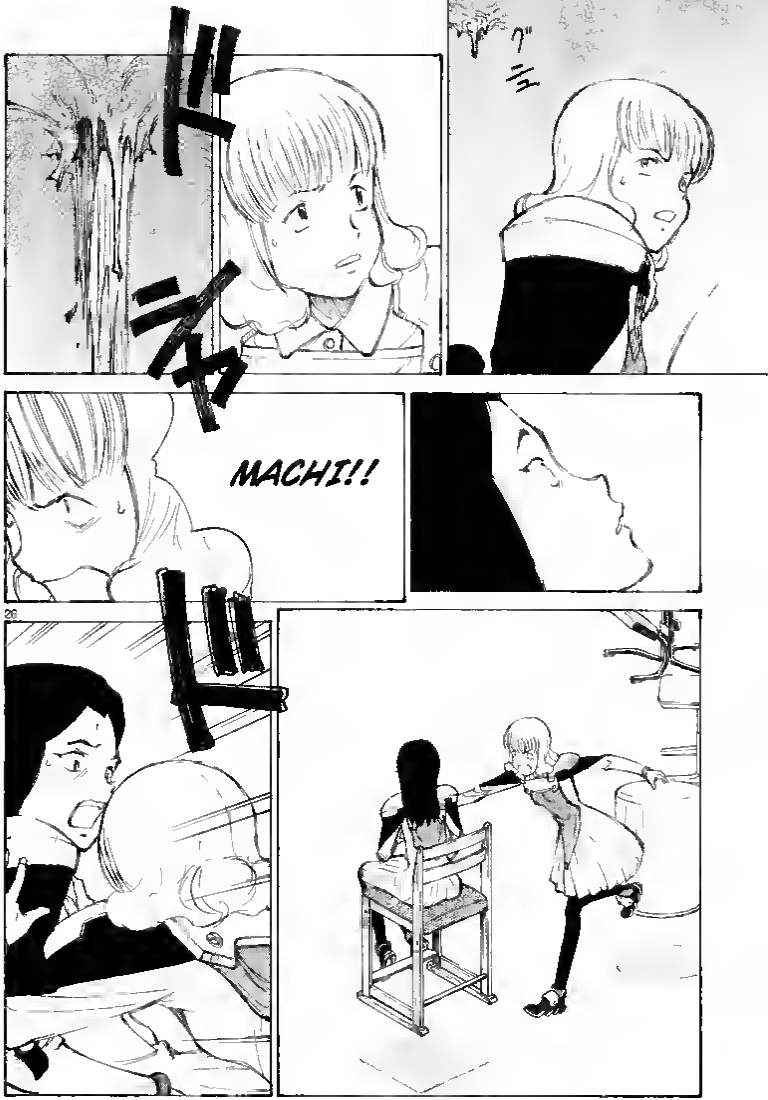
WHAT HAPPENS IF ZEARTH LOSES?
SAY,

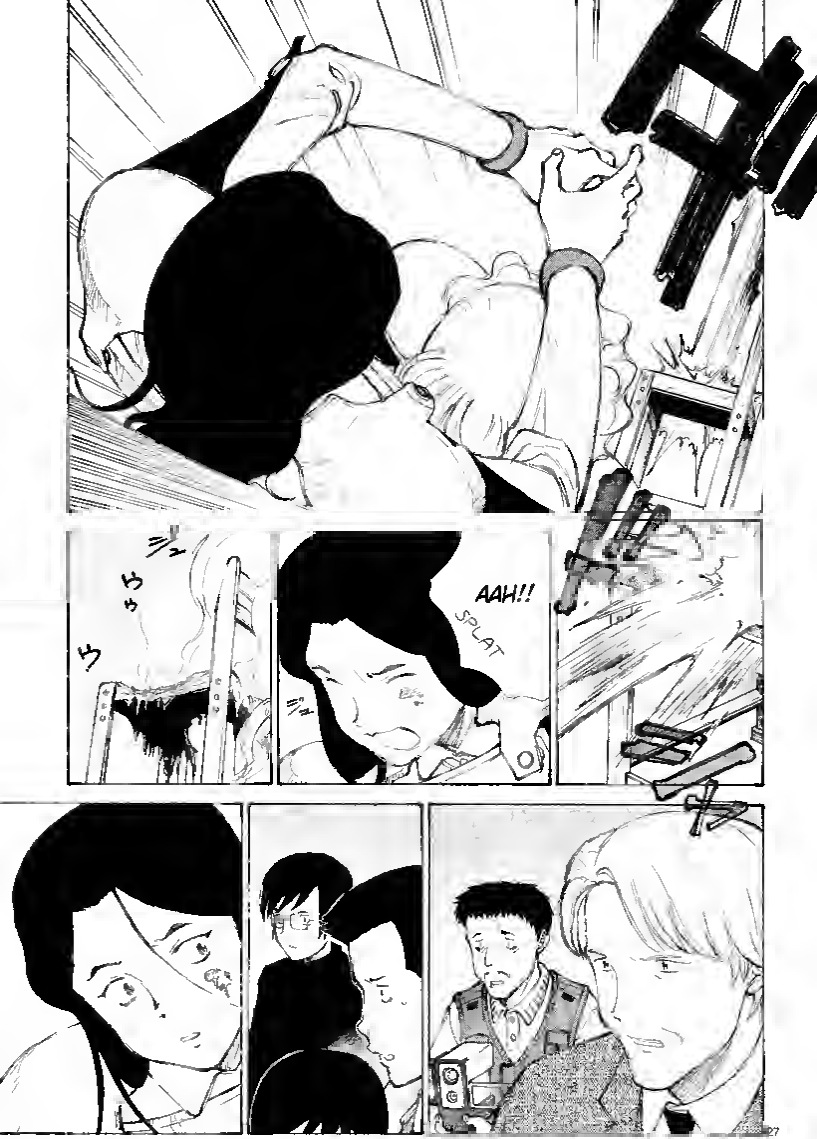
HUH?

YOU CAN'T BEAT ME!!
ドスン
ドカ

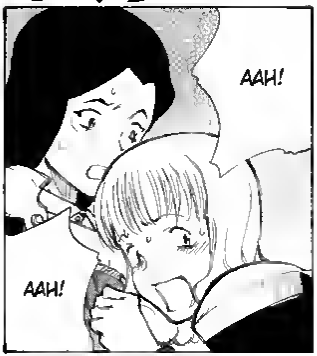
ヒュッ
ヒュッ
オン

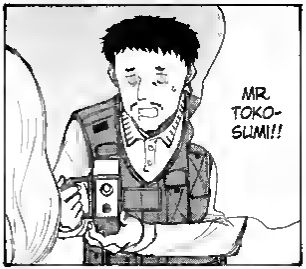
オオオ
THAT ONE WAS CLOSE!

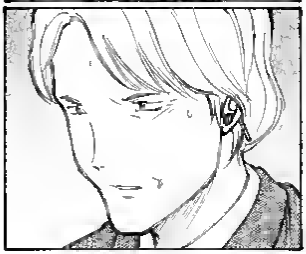

ドシャ
MACHI!!


AAH!!
SPLAT

NNF...


AAH!
AAH!


MR. TOKO-SUMI!!



AAAAAA
AAAGH!!

CHAPTER 41/END